

Potato Certification Advisory Committee Meeting

January 22, 2019, Kennewick, Washington

MINUTES

Voting members present: Mark Campbell, Brian Charlton, Kenneth Frost, Mike Kirsch, Rob Lane, James Macy, Mike Macy, Phil Rathbun, Sagar Vidyasagar, Elizabeth Savory

Non-voting members present: Andrew Altishin, Jeff McMorran (secretary), Jay Noller

Members absent: Scott Fenters, Reagan Grabner (represented by Mick Peck), Greg Harris, Lon E. Baley, Dan Curry, (represented by Andrew Altishin), George Rajnus (represented by Ed Stastny)

Guests present: Nichole Baley, Mary Beuthin, Terry Burr, Bill Brewer, Ross Deardoff, James Farris, Oscar Gutbrod, Maria Marques, Mick Peck, Ed Stastny Jr., Diana Stastny

I. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Scott Fenters was unable to attend, and Vice Chair Mike Macy had a sore throat, so Jeff McMorran opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. Introductions were made. All present were asked to sign the signup sheet and verify accuracy of contact information. The meeting was recorded and is available upon request.

II. 2018 Minutes: The minutes for the 2018 meeting were included in the packets and had been emailed to members in advance. No changes were recommended. A **motion**, duly made and seconded (Lane / Campbell) to approve the 2018 minutes without changes or additions, unanimously **passed**.

III. Program Updates:

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

With the aid of a handout that was passed around (attached below, see HANDOUTS- pg. 1) Dr. Savory introduced herself as the new Manager of the Plant Health and Seed Regulatory Program, and discussed some other personnel changes at the ODA, including a search for a new Director, a position currently held in interim by Casey Prentiss. She went on to present some figures showing the 2018 Shipping Point Volume – Potatoes Inspected (see handout) and the 2017 & 2018 Seed Potato Inspections. She also summarized some of the Potato Cyst Nematode sampling activity that had taken place in the previous year that is used to clear lots being shipped into Canada.

B. OSU - Crop & Soil Science (Jay Noller)

Following the handout in the packets “OSU Update” (see HANDOUTS- pg. 2) Dr. Noller reviewed several of the personnel changes that had taken place at OSU and in the Crop and Soil Science Dept. as well as some on going searches taking place. He also discussed some new degree programs that had been set up within the department, noting that most of these were ‘on-line’ programs. With such programs the university is not compensated (financially) for enrollment unless a degree is actually granted, so keeping the student involved and motivated is an important factor, and the on-line program is also a great way to attract more students into agricultural sciences. Jay announced that he is stepping down as chair of the department in September to allow him more time to develop the hemp programs being initiated at OSU now that Industrial (or Agricultural) hemp is a legal crop in the US. More on that at the end of the meeting. Lastly he related that our new Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Alan Sams, has been actively traveling around the state and becoming familiar with the various constituencies of the agricultural community, and will be visiting the WA-OR Potato Conference in the following days.

C. OSU Seed Services and Seed Certification Updates (Andrew Altishin)

Andrew referred the two handouts in the packets (see HANDOUTS- pg. 3 & 4) to review changes and plans for the Seed Services Division (this includes the OSU Seed Lab and OSCS) and the Seed Certification Service. He related that the OSU Seed Services is working on validation of a PCR test to distinguish perennial for annual ryegrass, work establishing official Kentucky 31 Tall fescue with and without entophyte, a computer-based seed sorter to be used in the purity unit, and developments of the new iPad entry system being used in the OSU Seed Lab.

Andrew then went on to review developments in Seed Certification including a summary of the acres certified for various crops in 2018 and new hires at OSCS. He touched on some new programs implemented by OSCS to make seed transfers, extensions, and tagging more efficient. Lastly he reported on some IT changes that included an upgrade of the main OSCS server and a website update. Andrew also noted that a fee increase was likely, pointing out that OSCS had not increased the fees for the potato program in almost 10 years (field) while costs continue to climb.

D. Winter Grow-Out Report (Terry Burr)

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, available at:

https://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/sites/seedcert.oregonstate.edu/files/pdfs/greenhouse_testing_2019.pdf

Terry reviewed some of the changes that taken place in the WGO this year that primarily focused on switching to planting in 40 unit trays filled with bagged pasteurized media (instead of planting in the ground) and conversion of one house from a soil floor to a more permeant setup of tables on gravel with cement walkways. The upgrades were possible with the support of several OSU-based grants. He noted that, along with the switch to trays, the time in the warming room had been shortened to two weeks (rather than leaving them in the warming room until sprouting occurred). This change allowed all of the grower's lots to be planted in the same area of the greenhouse and reduced the time from delivery of tubers to reading of lots.

The tray system worked very well, with near 100% emergence of the lots, easier reading and sampling, and ability to move trays around if needed (i.e., away from the wall if such trays were growing slower than those in the middle of the house). The older in-the-soil system generally required multiple reading and sampling dates; with the tray system we were usually able to sample an entire lot on a single day, thus increasing student-help efficiency. The ability to sample a lot in one day also reduced the difficulty of leaf delivery to the labs in a timely manner, especially during the busy and cold holiday season, and greatly simplified the reporting of the results. McMorran pointed out that OSCS was now using the OSU Seed Lab for all PVY testing, except where special tests, like TRV, were required. The tray system also allowed them to save the + mosaic plants until the lab results were returned in case the + mosaic and + PVY scores differed significantly.

Terry pointed out that overall they were very pleased with the use of trays and plans are to upgrade the other houses to permeant tables and gravel floors. **Question:** Does the new set up allow for GH capacity expansion if acreage increases? Answer: Yes, this year we only needed 3 houses, with a replant to only part of 6 tables in GH 18, and replanting with trays is no problem relative to replanting in the soil. Jeff estimated we could handle up to a 50% increase in lots tested this year with only three greenhouses. **Question:** Would grow lights help with the slow growing lots (Terry had mentioned a few lot lots came up but grew slowly, especially the Clearwater lots)? Answer: Perhaps, because trays can be moved, it might be useful to have an area of lights set up that the slow growing lots could be moved to to speed up growth.

E. Review of National Certification Meetings

McMorran and Brewer reviewed some of the highlight of the National meetings that were held in Washington DC in November. Because of time constraints McMorran only touched on a few of the subjects covered, but recommended that those interested in more detail could read over the minutes of these meetings which he would send out to the mailing list when available. The primary topics of concern to this group included updating & re-signing the State-National Harmonization Program and its accompanying Necrotic Virus Management Plan; USDA-APHIS Accreditation of Laboratories (both university and private for BRR testing); Tuber Testing of WGO samples; and the role of private laboratories in Post-Harvest testing of seed certification samples. There was also an update for the SCRI Virus Project of which Ken Frost is a participant - they are expanding the scope of this project beyond a PVY strains to include studies of soil-borne viruses like TRV and PMTV. The Dickeya/Pectobacterium situation was discussed - noting that this seemed to be a predominately east coast issue with only Maine and Pennsylvania requiring testing for this pathogen in the PHT. Information on the Potato Cyst Nematode and Potato Wart Surveys was presented along with NAPPO Panel Activities.

During the UNECE report Nina Zidack reported that a Spanish language version of the UNECE publication “Guide to Seed Potato Diseases, Pest, and Defect” is now available (see <https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/steering-committee-on-trade-capacity-and-standards/tradeagr/brochures-and-publications/potato-diseases-and-pests.html>). Lastly, Don Sklarczyk reported on a new NPC initiative called Strategic Planning Committee that will develop “Seed Certification Vision 2023” with a goal of identifying research needs of the industry, including data needed to support certification tolerances, tuber yield and quality improvements, standardization of terminology, and to improve interaction of certification with other agencies. As noted, the NPC or the PAA meeting minutes will provide more detailed information on any of these topics.

Bill Brewer noted that progress had been made on delimiting the number of soil samples that needed to be made to allow for Potato Cyst Nematode shipments from affected areas without an additional soil sampling, thus allowing for a longer period of sample-free shipments into Canada or other nematode free areas. For more information on PCN and sampling requirements see: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/PlantHealth/NematodeSurvey.pdf> or https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/sa_nematode/sa_potato/ct_pcn_home

IV. OSCS ISSUES & UPDATES FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION

Item 1: PHT - WGO vs. Lab Test only (Idaho & MN, MA situations)

McMorran reviewed the material in the meeting packet related to discussions around moving from Post-Harvest Test consisting of a winter grow-out to one based solely on lab testing of submitted tuber samples. The pros and cons of both are mentioned in the packet. He noted that Canada had long had this option, but two states, Minnesota and Maine, had now gone to 100% tuber testing for the PHT (i.e., no WGO), and Idaho was considering this change if the logistics can be worked out. This change is largely due to difficulties obtaining adequate plant stands in Hawaii/Florida or the cost of such programs.

This situation raised two issues for Oregon certification (1) Should Oregon accept lots from states that only have lab testing for the PHT; and (2) Should Oregon consider adopting tuber lab testing as a PHT option? There followed some discussion as to the need for a change in the standards if accepting seed form a ‘tuber test only’ state arose so infrequently, couldn’t this just be handled as a ‘special case’? Jeff responded that, though it is true that Oregon rarely receives seed lots form

Minnesota or Maine, other states are also considering this PHT option, and the use of 'special case' exemptions is generally limited to a one-time exception (i.e., a grower needs to buy a seed lot lab tested because of a late sale or limited other clean seed options). OSCS does not let the grower continually claim 'special case' when buying from the same grower in subsequent years. Jeff pointed out that the Standards could be left as they are and any lots from lab-only PHT state could be initially rejected as ineligible, and then have the rejection appealed, but this may become onerous if more states (like Montana for example) opt for this system.

A **motion**, duly made and seconded (Lane / Rathbun) to allow OSCS to accept seed lots from states/provinces where the Post-Harvest Test consisted solely of tuber lab testing, without a class penalty, **passed**, with one dissenting vote.

Item 2: Isolations from non-certified material (Experimental plots)

McMorran described the background of this item as reviewed in the meeting packets, noting that there had been at least 3 times the required isolation of early generation material from uncertified material had been appealed, two involving isolation from the Oregon Variety Development plots one from a commercial test plot. He could affirm that in the two cases this year the sounding material (variety trials) had been documented as being at a test level at or higher than required for early generation material, and had been adequately rogued or inspected, but were not certified as less than G3 certified class as is required in the Standards. He suggested that if the committee wishes to affirm the acceptability of such isolation situations (as has been done three times on appeal) they should simply consider amending the footnote in the Standards, Footnote *3 in Table 4 could be replaced with:

"This isolation requirement is waived if adjacent to experimental lines that can be documented as having the same, or higher, testing status as materials of a similar class to those being certified in the block".

A **motion**, duly made and seconded (M. Macy / Lane) to amend Footnote *3 in Table 4, as noted above, unanimously **passed**.

Item 3: "Skip Row" with 4 foot beds

McMorran explained why the skip row requirement between rows was instituted, noting evidence of tubers bouncing to adjacent plots at harvest and stolon penetration into adjacent rows. He further noted how the interpretation this requirement is difficult when 4 foot rows are used, questioning if the rule should be modified to give a specific minimum separation between differing varieties, say 34 inches. Charlton noted that in some areas and varieties a row spacing of less than 34 inches is being recommended for optimal yield &/or sizing and questioned how a 'minimum width' rule would affect that. He also went on to ask if the amount of variety mix in a seed lot was a buyer-seller issue and not a OSCS issue. McMorran answered that there is a tolerance for variety mix, which means that OSCS must, to the best of their abilities, assure that a lot tagged at a specific class meets the tolerance for off-type. Because the inspectors see very little of the harvested lots (percentage-wise) either in the field or the bin, this is an important tool used to help assure that the tolerance had been met.

There was little more discussion on this item and the general consensus of the group was that interpretation of the skip row rule as applied to specific situations should be left up to the OSCS inspector. **No motions** were made, **no changes** to the Standards approved.

Item 4: Generation system (N, G1, G2, G3... to FY1, FY2, FY3 system)

McMorran used a chart in the meeting packet to demonstrate the variation of class terminology among states and provinces. He noted that the National trend was to move away from a “generation” terminology (i.e., Generation 1, Generations 2, etc.) and adopt a “Field Year” terminology (FY1, FY2) with the first year in the field being called FY1 (rather than either Nuclear as is done in most western states, or Gen1). He pointed out how several states had already adopted this system, and that Idaho was likely to adopt in this year (i.e. it passed the advisory Committee, Board and Dean, but is awaiting the approval of the Idaho legislature in March). He commented that the FY system is essentially the same as the Generation system, the tolerances for each class would not change, it is just a change in the name of each class. He felt that the main flaw with both systems (Gen & FY) is when down grading occurs (i.e., a lot is downgraded from G1 to G2 for excessive virus, for example). In such cases the lot’s FY# or Gen# is greater than then the actual number of years in the field and this has caused confusion among some buyers (i.e., when a lot what has been in the field for only 2 years but is ‘classed’ as FY3 or G2 due to downgrading). He went on to note that some states (Wisconsin and Colorado) had separated out the class from the field year designation using terms like Foundation, Certified or Class A,B,C. He presented a system that could be used for this using a class designations of Foundation 1, F2, Registered 1, R2, and Certified).

At this point McMorran recommended that a decision be made only on changing a Generation to FY terminology and leaving the second issue for a subsequent year. There was some support voiced for one or both changes, but **no motion** to that effect was made and **no changes** will be made in this regard to the 2019 Potato Standards. This same topic will be revisited by 2020 PCAC.

Item 5: Necrotic Arc Inspections

McMorran reviewed how and why the Necrotic Arc inspections are made, noting that a question had been made regarding the value of this inspection. He pointed out that under the terms of the Necrotic Virus Management Plant, of which Oregon is a signatory, this inspection is required of all out-of-state shipments. He also noted that in most states an official Shipping Point Inspection (Grade Inspection) is required for all lots (loads), that includes an inspection for internal defects, but Oregon does not have this requirement and the “pre-clearance” Necrotic Arc Inspection is a work around for this requirement. Some discussion on whether virus testing alone for the three culprit tuber necrosing viruses (PVY, TRV, PMTV) could supplant this cutting requirement.....no, not officially at this time.

There was little other discussion on this topic and **no changes** to the Oregon Standards or recommendation to the National certification groups was made.

Item 6: Potatoes and Hemp Seed - Opportunities and Rotations

Dr. Jay Noller gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current situation entitled “*Hemp + Potato Rotations - Is this a good idea?*” in which he presented some data on the current acreage of hemp in Oregon, noting that potato growers dominate commercial hemp production at this point. He discussed some of the products made from Industrial Hemp, of which CBD is chief production goal. Because production of hemp products has not been legal on a federal level until recently, there are no licensed pesticides/herbicides for use on this crop, or for controlling the hemp volunteers that might emerge in subsequent season. He went on to point out some of the benefits hemp can have in a potato crop rotation program including nematode management and increased market class yields. He concluded by relating that as a relatively new crop in the US

and Oregon, a fair amount of production related research is needed on this crop as to agronomic practices, crop rotation studies, IPM, and Post-harvest processing (among others). In the years to come Dr. Noller will be coordinating this effort for OSU.

* - Jay asked that his slide presentation not be posted here due to permission issues.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

PVY detection via peptide insertion - Goyer Aymeric (of HAREC) discussed a proposal being presented to the ODA Specialty Crop Grant Program for funding of a project that involves facilitating PVY detection in potato plants via peptide insertion. This is a new method that facilitates the identification of PVY-infected plants during seed potato field inspections by accentuating foliar symptoms and accelerating their appearance and thus improving the detection and roguing of infected plants. The method is based on foliar application of a small peptide that promotes symptom expression. He was asked whether this insertion would increase the detection of other virus.... Unknown at this time. He was also asked about treatment cost.... Also unknown, much of the cost would depend on the amount of peptide needed (to be determined by research) and the cost of the peptide once production could be scaled up for large scale use.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No immediate nominations were made by the committee and no one volunteered. Rob Lane reminded the group that it had agreed last year to rotate the chair alphabetically by farm name (as appears on the Seed Grower Contact List* provided the farm noted had (or would have) a voting member on the committee. He suggested we go ahead and proceed with this policy, and that he was willing to take the vice chair position next year if desired and then proceed alphabetically from there**.

There was no objection to this motion, so **Rob Lane** was approved as the Vice Chair, with **Mike Macy** advancing to the Chair position for 2019.

*(https://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/sites/seedcert.oregonstate.edu/files/grower_list_current.pdf)

** The next farm in line alphabetically after Lane Farms is Macy Farms, however Mike will be chair so I assume the next farm should be Madras Farm (Mike Kirsch) in 2020.

VII. ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Submitted 2-1-2019 by Jeff McMorran

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

**Potato Certification Advisory  
Committee Report  
January 22, 2019**



**Market Access and Certification Program Staffing Updates**

- Casey Prentiss, Interim Director
- Elizabeth Savory, Plant Health and Seed Regulatory Program Manager
- David Lane, Agriculture Development and Marketing Manager
- Susanna Pearlstein, Produce Safety Program Manager

**2018 Shipping Point Volume – Potatoes Inspected**

|                     | Hermiston            | Klamath/Medford   | Ontario              | Salem             | Statewide            |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Potatoes, Fresh     | 88,230,294           | 34,149,080        | 346,265              | 87,712,104        | 210,437,743          |
| Potatoes, Processed | 2,399,093,819        |                   | 1,089,855,280        |                   | 3,488,949,099        |
| Potatoes, Seed      | 3,086,420            | 496,500           |                      |                   | 3,582,920            |
| <b>Totals</b>       | <b>2,490,410,533</b> | <b>34,645,580</b> | <b>1,090,201,545</b> | <b>87,712,104</b> | <b>3,702,969,762</b> |

**2017 and 2018 Seed Potato Inspections**

| Shipping Point District | 2017       |                  | 2018       |                  |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
|                         | Lots (cut) | Inspected Weight | Lots (cut) | Inspected Weight |
| Klamath/Medford         | *          | 16,400           | 4*         | 496,500          |
| Hermiston               |            | 587,910          |            | 3,086,420        |
| Ontario                 | 22         |                  | 20         |                  |

\*Numbers do not reflect total lots cut. Inspections are carried out alongside grade inspections

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

### Highlights

1. New CSS faculty hired, start dates announced.
2. Three new CSS faculty searches underway.

### Crop and Soil Science – We are all about Soils to Seeds

#### New / Renewed CSS Faculty

- a. Dr. Caio Brunharo, new assistant professor of Weed Science, started 2 January 2019
- b. Ms. Bailey Jenks, new Cereals Outreach Coordinator, started November 6
- c. Dr. Stuart Reitz, CSS faculty, started 1 November as the director of the Malheur Experiment Station.
- d. Mr. Brian Charlton, CSS faculty, started in mid September as Interim Director of KBREC, Klamath Falls.

#### Faculty Searches

Corvallis:

- We have begun the search for Assistant Professor (tenureable), Extension Entomologist. Dr. Silvia Rondon, CSS-HAREC Entomologist, will be the search chair.

COAREC, Madras:

- We have begun the search for Assistant Professor (tenureable), IPM Scientist.

KBREC, Klamath Falls:

- We have begun the search for Assistant Professor (tenureable), Agronomy

We greatly appreciate the input from all of our stakeholders in defining these positions and the anticipated searches ahead.

#### New Degrees, Courses and Certificates:

CSS is launching:

1. Online BS major and minor degrees in soil science; coming later in 2019: agronomy major and minor
2. Online Organic Agriculture graduate certificate; coming this Spring

### College of Agricultural Sciences

OSU is expanding its Industrial Hemp research enterprise statewide to its Branch Experiment Stations during 2019. CSS Head Jay Noller is leading these efforts, supported by Professors Rich Roseberg and Valtcho Jeliakov, as well as faculty across the state.

Dean Sams is currently making the rounds of the state and various constituencies of the College. Look for him at an Experiment Station near you and other events over the coming months.

The College has completed its 150 anniversary celebration events and is looking forward to the next 150 years.

### Oregon State University

Oregon State University is wrapping up its celebrations of its 150th anniversary. You might be interested in having your own limited-run OSU150 commemorative blanket designed and produced by Oregon's own Pendleton Woolen Mills. See the university front webpage for information.



**OSU Seed Services Update**

January 22, 2019

- Seed Services is working with the International Seed Testing Association to perform a validation study to verify the ability of a PCR test to distinguish perennial ryegrass from annual ryegrass. Currently, the OSU Seed Lab is performing grow-out tests for the study. It is hoped that the research will be finished by the fall of 2019.
- Last spring the Tall Fescue Commission had requested some breeder K31 seed from Kentucky Foundation Seed (KFS). KFS sent 2 lbs. of endophyte K31 and 14 lbs. of endophyte-free K31 seed and it is being stored at the Hyslop cold room. It is possible that Certified K31 will be produced using these seed lots.
- Seed Services is working with OSU Computer Science and Engineering students to try and develop a computer seed sorter machine that will assist in the process of purity testing. It is hoped that a device would decrease turn-around time for the OSU seed lab.
- The Seed Lab is working with some OSU IT staff to develop an iPad data entry system that will stop double entry of data and greatly reduce data entry errors.

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### **2018 Year in Review**

**Total Acres Certified of all Crops – 235,145**  
Total Acres of Grass Crops Certified – 198,584  
Total Acres of Small Grains Certified – 21,134  
Total Acres of Legumes Certified – 6,247  
Total Acres of Misc. Other Crops Certified – 6,017  
Total Acres of Potatoes Certified – 2,845  
Total Acres of PVG Certified – 145

#### New Hires

- Andrew Altishin, Manager
- Alex Albion, Seed Certification Specialist
- Mel Laam, Tagging Coordinator
- Chanelle Moody, Office Specialist
- Annette Terreberry, Seed Certification Aide (Sampler, Umatilla Co.)
- Tonia Rea, Seed Certification Aide (Sampler, Union Co.)

#### New Programs

- Change Container Type from Bulk Containers to Sacks or Buckets
- Request Field Extension for Your Contracted Fields
- Create Online ISTA Seed Sample Certificate
- Transfer/Accept Fields From Another Grower
- Request Sampling of Certified Lots

#### Other Topics

- Network Changes
- Server Upgrades
- Website Upgrades
- New Dean of the College of Agricultural Science and Director of Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, OSU, Dr. Alan Sams