

## Potato Certification Advisory Committee Meeting

January 21, 2021 – via Zoom

### MINUTES

**Voting members present:**\* Mark Campbell, Brian Charlton, Mike Kirsch, Rob Lane, Mike Macy, Scott Fenters, James Macy, Tyler Wagstaff, Mark Campbell, Mike Kirsch, Cody Fazio, Tegan Macy, Scotty Fenters, Kenneth Frost, Lydia Raath (rep by Mick Peck).

**Non-voting members present:** Andrew Altishin, Thomas Chastain, Dan Curry, Jeff McMorran (secretary), Elizabeth Savory.

**Members absent\*:** George Rajnus, Sagar Vidyasagar (moderating General Session meeting).

**Guests present:** Mary Beuthin, Tami Brown, Dale Brown, Terry Burr, Shawn Cross, Oscar Gutbrod, Rachel Hankins, Jodi Keeling, Tim Topliff, Darrin Walenta.

\* - list based on Zoom attendance list. Additional individuals may have joined those noted above.

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Rob Lane opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. No formal introductions were made. Listing of those present made via the Zoom gallery list.

**II. Approval of Agenda and 2020 Minutes:** The minutes for the 2020 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 2020 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. No written report. Mentioned that the ODA would begin the Potato Cyst Nematode surveys again this year. They were last completed 3 years ago. There were no questions for Dr. Savory.

**B. OSU - Crop & Soil Science.** Thomas Chastain, Head of Department of Crop and Soil Science reviewed the information presented on his summary (included in the packet).

**C. OSU Seed Services.** Dan Curry review the three item presented in this handout (included in packet) including production of Gulf Annual Ryegrass seedstock, the failure of the BDI PCR test for Perennial ryegrass, and robotics for the lab. Jeff also commented on the excellent cooperation OSCS had from the OSU Seed lab in performing the PVY testing of the WGO lots this year.

**D. Oregon Seed Certification Service.** Andy Altishin reviewed some of the highlights of OSCS in the 2020 year with the aid of a handout in the packet that included information on acreage of various crops OSCS certifies, information on OSCS personnel including 2 new hires, and programs administered. He also showed the group, via screen sharing, where the

OSCS Activity Summary is located on the OSCS web page, giving examples of some of the useful information therein.

**E. Winter Grow-Out Report.** With the aid of a set of slides (available in the meeting packet) Terry Burr reviewed some of the highlights of this year's WGO. He reviewed shipment, planting, and reading dates, noting the shortest days from receiving to reading was 29 days for short dormancy fingerlings, and the longest was 80 days for Clearwater Russet lots that tend to be slow growing in the WGO greenhouse conditions. He noted that due to the closing of the OSU East greenhouses and reduced space needs with the tray system, OSCS is now permanently down to 3 greenhouses, and only used 2 this year. OSCS might be putting up high intensity lights in the GH next year that may enhance the growth and reduce the time from planting to reading of the lots. He reviewed the situation with student labor, and limitations placed on the crew due to the COVID situation.

Terry ended by informing the group that OSCS is considering moving the cut-off date for WGO sample delivery from Jan 2 to Dec 1. This change would increase operation efficiency because scheduling student labor in late December (after the end of the term) is often difficult when few very late seed lots come in. Generally all lots are received before December. No objection was voiced to this proposed cut-off date, it will likely be adopted.

**F. Review of National Potato Certification Meetings.** Jeff McMorran reviewed some of the items that were discussed at the national potato certification meetings held via Zoom this last December. For more specific information on what was discussed, see the summary placed in the meeting packet, or request minutes from those meetings (when available).

#### **IV. OSCS ISSUES & UPDATES FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION**

##### **Item 1: Change in Generation Terminology - Update**

Jeff reminded the group that one of the major changes in the potato certification program as a result of the 2020 PCAC meeting was the change from the "Generation System" terminology (i.e., G1,G2,G3, etc.) to the "Field Year System" (i.e., FY1, FY2,FY3, etc.) for class terminology. He noted that this was just a change in way classes were named and not a change in any of the tolerances relating to these classes. The class Pre-Nuclear will now be used to denote material coming directly from a lab, this material had no formal name in the previous system. Greenhouse-derived material will now be classed Nuclear class if tested and produced as described in the Potato Standards. Jeff presented two tables provided in the meeting packet showing (1) The old and the new terminology; and (2) Which states now have adopted similar FY terminology.

Jeff noted there did not seem to be any problems or confusion raised regarding this terminology conversion, and none were voiced during this meeting.

**Item 2: Removing Class Downgrades in the Winter Grow-Out - Update**

The second major change made in 2020 was to discontinue the practice of using the Winter Grow-Out readings to downgrade lots but simply to use them to determine eligibility for re-certification. There was no 'cap' (or maximum allowed) adopted for Certification purposes. Jeff reviewed the slides pertaining to this switch (as presented in the meeting packet), ending with a table showing the number of lots by class in the WGO this year that were eligible for tagging but exceeded 2%, 5%, and 10% mosaic levels. A table was presented (in the meeting packet) showing what a suggested 'cap' for various conditions might be if adopted.

Jeff then pointed out that most, but not all, states do impose a 'cap' for certification purposes and that the lack of any cap in the Oregon system can demean the value of the Oregon certification tag when seed lots with excessively high virus levels are 'Blue tagged'. It was pointed out that the tags of such lots do say "*Not eligible for re-certification*" and the % mosaic observed is listed on the Final Reports and North American Seed Potato Health Certificates (NAHC).

The comment was made that because the amount of virus present in the lot is noted on the Final Reports and NAHC lots the buyer should not be taken by surprise and this should be an issue between seller and buyer. It was pointed out also that many of these high virus lots end up in the Othello and Hermiston Seed Lot Trials, and that it can be embarrassing to see Oregon lots with many mosaic flags that are clearly identifiable as certified Oregon source in the booklet.

There was little additional discussion on this issue, and there was no motion to add any type of 'cap' to the WGO tolerances for certification purposes.

**Item 3: Tolerance for Chemical injury in the Winter Grow-Out - Update**

The PCAC voted last year to simply note any chemical injury observed in the WGO in the comment areas of the final reports but not used to downgrade a lot or make a lot ineligible for tagging. This discussion was simply a review of how the adoption of this policy is reflected on Table 7 of the Standards (see the meeting packet for specifics).

There was no further discussion on this information.

**Item 4: Potential for Interest in Dormant Tuber Testing of PHT Samples**

Dormant Tuber Testing (DTT) is the testing of dormant tubers for the presence of various diseases, specifically PVY. Slides discussing the advantages and disadvantages of DTT of Post-Harvest Test samples were presented. It was pointed out that the results of DTT for PVY could replace the need to have the WGO lot sampled/tested for PVY, and would give the PVY results much faster.

The purpose of this presentation was to assess if there was any interest among the growers present for the OSU Seed Lab to develop this type of technology, not to replace the WGO with DTT. There was interest expressed from at least one grower. Jeff said he would plan to follow-up this discussion with an appraisal of the Oregon seed growers to see if any others might be interested.

**Item 5: Change Manner Varieties ‘Latent’ to PVY Are Treated in the Standards.**

With the aid of the material presented in the meeting packet and slides, Jeff discussed why he felt the term ‘latent varieties’ as used in the Potato Standards was no longer relevant. He pointed out that the listing of “latent varieties” present in the Standards were symptomless (or nearly so) when infected with “o” strain of PVY which has now been largely replaced with the PVY<sup>no</sup> strain. As demonstrated in the Seed Lot Trials in Othello most of the varieties inoculated with the PVY<sup>no</sup> strain were relatively symptomless, and some ‘latent varieties’ were not, making the distinction of ‘latent’ varieties in the Standards dubious. He was also concerned that having special rules in the Potato Standards for ‘latent varieties’ may be problematic if they were applied too broadly for all the varieties present on the PAA Latent Variety list.

This presentation was followed by a listing of the three questions shown in the meeting packet regarding how the Potato Standards should relate to ‘Latent Varieties’.

After a few comments, a motion was made and seconded that the third option be adopted. Specifically “the distinction in the Standards of “latent” and non-latent varieties found in the Standards be eliminated”. Jeff will review the Standards and remove reference to ‘latent varieties’ wherever it occurs.

**Item 6A: Review of Special Testing Requirements by Other States**

The table appearing in the meeting packet on special testing requirement among states & Canada was shown in the slides and reviewed. It’s main purpose was to remind the growers that many states/provinces have requirements beyond those required to certify (or recertify) lots in Oregon and that if they know they will be shipping to another state/province they should contact that state/province to be sure their seed lot will be accepted.

**Item 6B: Review of Certification Requirements for In-State and Out-of-State Shipments**

This table was an expansion of the one presented in Item 6A and was used to show that there are many factors that many restrict Oregon certified seed from being eligible in a

receiving state or province if certain tests or conditions are not met. He also pointed out that the final eligible class also varies among states, some being less, some being more (as shown on the bottom line of the table).

**Item 7A: Changing the Number of WGO ‘Samples’ Needed Based on Class.**

Jeff showed a table that exemplified the manner Montana is now determining how many 400-tuber ‘samples’ are required for the WGO. Like Oregon, the number of ‘samples’ was previously based solely on acreage of the field, but Montana realized they needed more precise information for the earlier generation lots than for the older generation ‘pre-commercial’ lots. Thus the system, presented on the slide, was adopted that required multiple amounts of samples based on acreage for FY3 lots, but only a single sample (regardless of acreage) for FY4 and higher lots. This presentation was given just for growers to consider this option, not to change the standards this year.

**Item 7B: “Change in PVY Testing & Tolerances Model for WGO”** was not discussed.

## **VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Following the system adopted two years ago, the next vice chair is selected alphabetically from Farm name list, Rajnus Seed was approved to be the next vice chair of the committee. If George Rajnus (who was not present) does not approve, Jeff will work with Brian Charlton to find an appropriate replacement.

**ADJOURN** - Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Submitted 1-27-2021 by Jeff McMorran

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