

  	<h1>Potato Progress</h1> <p>Research & Extension for the Potato Industry of Idaho, Oregon, & Washington</p> <p>Andrew Jensen, Editor. ajensen@potatoes.com; 509-760-4859 www.nwpotatoresearch.com</p>
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Welcome to 2017, and Some Web Resources, Old and New

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As we charge headlong toward another growing season, I want to extend my warm wishes to you for a successful 2017, and express my hope that each of you can enjoy whatever role you fill in the potato industry this year. This is the beginning of my 17th year editing and distributing *Potato Progress* which, as ever, is meant for anyone working in the Northwest potato industry. In addition, I wanted to point out a few Web resources that you might not know about, or might not have seen recently, that could be helpful this year and beyond.

Refurbished Website and Research Library Database at www.nwpotatoresearch.com

Since 2012 the Washington, Idaho, and Oregon potato commissions have cooperated in research funding and management, and have called this cooperative venture the Northwest Potato Research Consortium. The Consortium is represented on the Web by www.nwpotatoresearch.com, which includes the 'research library.' The entire site was recently re-built, and a few bugs are still being found, but please have a look!

The Soil Health Institute <http://soilhealthinstitute.org/>

From the site, "In 2013, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and Farm Foundation, NFP, convened agricultural industry thought leaders, farmers, ranchers, government agency leaders, and non-governmental organizations to examine the current state of soil health and its role in a vibrant, profitable, and sustainable natural ecosystem. As the group identified diverse and complex issues regarding soil health, it became clear that a collaborative-oriented organization was needed to spearhead accurate, science-based information, create a sense of urgency and coordinate change leadership. The Soil Health Institute is that organization. As the independent, non-profit organization charged with coordinating and supporting soil stewardship and advancing soil health, the Soil Health Institute is focused on fundamental and applied research. We recognize that soil health must emerge as the cornerstone of land use management decisions during the 21st Century because healthy soil is the foundation of life and society, our remaining arable soil is degrading at a rapid rate and the global population is expected to exceed nine billion by 2050, increasing demand on agricultural production and our natural resources." In particular, I wanted to tell you that the Institute is currently seeking comments on their DRAFT Action Plan, <http://soilhealthinstitute.org/review-soil-health-institutes-action-plan/>

Focus on Potato from the Plant Management Network

<https://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/focusonpotato/>

From the site, "The Plant Management Network (PMN) is a nonprofit online publishing effort whose mission is to enhance the health, management, and production of agricultural and horticultural crops. We achieve this mission by publishing applied, multidisciplinary online resources for researchers, consultants, growers, pesticide applicators, and other professionals involved in the management of large and small crops."

Upcoming Potato Conferences in Pocatello and Kennewick

Idaho Potato Conference & Ag Expo Jan. 18-19, 2017

Pond Student Union Building, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho

The 49th Annual University of Idaho Potato Conference and 38th Ag Expo will be held on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19.

The conference covers a wide range of industry topics ranging from variety development, management practices and economics, marketing and political issues. There are Idaho and Washington Department of Agriculture Pesticide Handler credits available. There is also a series of nine presentations on industry topics presented in Spanish. The Ag Show is held in Holt Arena and there is an extensive Trade Show in the ballroom of the SUB. There is also a Grower-Speaker Social Wednesday evening, poolside at the Red Lion Inn.

For more information and links to registration, see:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/cals/potatoes/conferences/idaho-potato-conference>

Washington/Oregon Potato Conference January 24-26, 2017

Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, Washington

This conference includes a Spanish-language session on Tuesday morning, a Cultivar Performance Workshop on Tuesday afternoon, General Sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, plus numerous side meetings, evening events, and a top-notch tradeshow.

For more information and a link to registration, see:

<http://potatoconference.com>