Potato Progress

Research and Extension for Washington's Potato Industry
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Potato Commission Solicits Research Proposals on Specific Topics

Each year about this time the research committee of the WSPC begins its 6-month process of soliciting, reviewing, and recommending for funding research proposals. Its Request For Proposals (RFP) was completed and distributed in September, and contains the following description of the WSPC research review process (see **http://www.potatoes.com/research/rfp/2004.pdf?IDList=19,76**):

> *All WSPC research proposals are reviewed, and rejected or recommended for funding, by the **Research Council** – a group of 17 potato industry representatives. Five of these are WSPC Commissioners, who are part of the **Research Committee,** while the other 12 are volunteers from the potato industry including growers, processors, ag/chem reps, and extension personnel. The members of the Research Council generously donate their time toward continuing top-level research in the potato industry.*
>
> *Only "new" proposals are reviewed at the Preliminary Research Review in Moses Lake (see schedule below). All principle investigators on "new" projects are expected to present their proposals at that review. What constitutes a "new" proposal is up to the WSPC, and includes entirely new researchers and projects, renewals of projects after the initial project has expired, and continuing projects that have been changed in any significant fashion. A subset of these proposals will be invited back for the Final Research Review in February, contingent upon satisfactory modification as may be suggested by the Research Council. The Final Research Review will span two days, and will entail presentations of results and proposals for all projects: "continuing," "ongoing," and "new." All projects must be presented in person to the Research Council at the Final Research Review, and all presenters are expected to attend the entire research review. Such attendance is intended to keep all potato researchers informed of the entire potato research arena, and hopefully foster better research and more cooperation among disciplines.*

Schedule (tentative) for proposal submission and Research Reviews:

1. *All proposals due: November 15, 2003.*
2. *Preliminary Research Review (Moses Lake): December 17, 2003.*
3. *Revised "new" proposals and progress reports due: January 15, 2004.*
4. *Final Research Review (Pullman): February 12-13, 2004.*

In addition to the review process, the RFP describes the extensive reporting requirements that scientists must follow, including newsletter articles, quarterly reports, and annual reports.

This year, the commission requested proposals on the following topics:

Topic Area	Specific Project
Fertility & soils	**Optimize nitrogen fertilizer use to reduce costs and increase profits.** This project would be expected to examine the best grower practices in detail, and design experiments that lead to improvement to those practices. The project should take into account soil characteristics such as N release rates, crop residue decomposition, micronutrients, etc. The project should include detailed examination of plant physiology as it relates to the fertility regimes under study. These parameters should include tuber set (number and timing), root and shoot growth, etc. The commission expects much of the work to take place in grower-cooperator fields, and to involve experts in soils and horticulture/physiology.
Irrigation	**Timing of irrigation as it relates to tuber set in the Skagit Valley.** This project should be conducted in the Skagit Valley, and would examine the relationship between irrigation and tuber set in common varieties grown in that area.
Insects & arthropods	**Wireworms – with a focus on application methods, timing, etc. in addition to products and rates.** This project should address the variability that growers experience in wireworm control from time to time and place to place using the same chemical and rate. **Seed corn maggot – biology, distribution, damage, etc.** This project should focus on the who, what, where, and why of damage to potato seed and young plants related to maggots. It should especially focus on any relationship between maggot infestation and stem soft rots.
Diseases & nematodes	**Stem rot.** This problem is presumed to be caused by bacteria, but source and timing of inoculum, and methods of control are all unclear. The commission would like to see a project focus on all aspects of this disease, including management recommendations.
Storage	**Storage rot control with in-furrow fungicides.** There is some indication that treatment of potatoes at planting time with in-furrow fungicides can reduce rot in storage caused by various pathogens. The commission would like to see a trial of all appropriate fungicides in this regard.

The WSPC research review process is open to any interested parties. Meetings will be announced in *Potato Progress,* and we would welcome your participation.

Upcoming Educational Events

- ✔ Hermiston Farm Fair & Trade Show Potato Seminar, December 3.
- ✔ Columbia Basin Potato Workshops
  - January 7, Moses Lake.
  - January 8, Pasco.
- ✔ Washington State Potato Conference and Trade Show, February 3-5, Moses Lake.
- ✔ Western Washington Potato Workshop, February 27, Mount Vernon.

Mustard Green Manure Field Day

Thursday, October 23rd, 2003
10 am at the Dale Gies Farm

1.5 miles west of Rd. M on Rd. 5 SE
Moses Lake, Washington

New Information on
Early planting Wind erosion control Mustard varieties

And Two Nematologists

Ekaterini Riga, WSU-Prosser will talk about her screening of mustards and other brassicas for nematode control

Russ Ingham, OSU, will talk about his work using combinations of green manures and nematicides

For More Information Call Andy McGuire
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•High Performance Seed, Moses Lake, WA.
•McKay Seed, Moses Lake, WA.
•Spectrum Crop Development, Ritzville, WA.

Washington Potato Acreage, Production, and Storage Data

Crop Year	Harvested Acreage	Yield Per Harvested Acre (cwt)	Tons/A	Production (000cwt)	Stocks on Hand (000 cwt) Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1
1966	58,000	376	18.8	21,830	18,300	7,150	5,500	3,950			
1967	64,000	345	17.3	22,090	10,660	8,800	6,600	4,400			
1968	64,000	378	18.9	24,173	10,430	8,800	7,050	5,100			
1969	71,700	415	20.8	29,796	15,300	13,100	10,300	7,800			
1970	87,000	386	19.3	33,590	18,500	16,000	12,500	9,700			
1971	78,000	386	19.3	30,110	16,450	13,500	10,350	7,500			
1972	75,000	418	20.9	31,365	15,800	13,400	10,300	7,100	4,200		
1973	82,000	430	21.5	35,260	18,600	15,600	12,600	9,100	5,500		
1974	98,000	420	21.0	41,160	22,500	20,500	16,800	12,800	8,900		
1975	105,000	460	23.0	48,300	27,900	24,100	19,900	11,500	10,000		
1976	124,000	450	22.5	55,800	33,200	29,700	25,000	20,100	15,200		
1977	110,000	460	23.0	50,600	28,400	24,700	20,800	15,900	11,300		
1978	109,000	465	23.3	50,685	32,000	28,800	24,000	19,300	14,500	9,500	
1979	103,000	475	23.8	48,450	30,800	27,300	23,300	19,000	14,400	10,500	
1980	87,000	505	25.3	43,935	24,300	22,000	18,500	14,600	10,900	7,200	
1981	108,000	490	24.5	52,920	29,200	25,100	21,000	17,000	12,600	8,200	
1982	110,000	480	24.0	52,800	29,200	25,100	21,600	17,100	13,200	8,600	
1983	103,000	520	26.0	53,560	29,500	25,600	21,800	16,500	11,000	7,100	
1984	115,000	495	24.8	56,925	29,600	25,900	20,800	16,600	11,300	7,000	
1985	127,000	505	24.3	61,100	33,500	30,000	25,700	21,000	16,200	9,700	
1986	118,000	510	25.5	60,200	32,300	28,000	24,400	20,400	14,600	8,700	
1987	124,000	540	27.0	67,000	36,600	32,900	28,300	22,800	17,500	12,400	
1988	115,000	550	27.5	63,300	36,700	32,100	27,700	22,500	16,200	10,700	
1989	118,000	545	27.3	64,310	34,500	30,400	25,100	20,000	13,100	7,100	
1990	132,000	515	25.8	67,980	35,500	29,500	24,500	19,800	15,100	10,400	
1991	141,000	535	26.8	75,440	37,000	32,200	27,000	21,200	15,000	9,600	
1992	125,000	525	26.3	69,300	31,000	26,700	24,900	19,800	13,000	8,200	
1993	150,000	590	29.5	88,500	43,500	38,500	32,000	26,500	20,000	13,500	
1994	152,000	585	29.3	88,900	47,500	43,000	37,500	30,500	23,500	17,000	
1995	147,000	550	27.5	80,850	39,500	33,000	30,500	25,000	18,000	12,500	
1996	161,000	590	29.5	94,990	48,000	42,000	36,500	30,000	23,000	16,500	
1997	152,000	580	29.0	88,060	47,000	41,500	36,500	29,500	22,500	16,000	
1998	165,000	565	28.3	93,225	49,000	43,500	36,500	29,500	21,500	14,500	7,500
1999	170,000	560	28.0	95,200	48,000	41,000	35,000	28,000	20,500	14,500	7,000
2000	175,000	600	30.0	105,000	59,000	52,000	44,500	37,500	29,500	21,500	13,000
2001	160,000	590	29.5	94,400	53,000	45,500	40,000	32,500	25,000	18,000	10,000
2002	170,000	560	28.0	95,200	53,000	46,500	40,000	33,000	25,500	19,500	12,000
2003	165,000										

Data from National Agricultural Statistics Service