



Potato Progress

Research & Extension for the Potato Industry of
Idaho, Oregon, & Washington

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www.nwpotatoresearch.com

Volume XV, Number 11

13 August 2015

Northwest Potato Research Consortium A Cooperative Effort of the Potato Commissions of ID, OR, & WA

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Research Review Plans for Fall 2015 – Winter 2016
For more details, see: www.nwpotatoresearch.com

In February 2012 the state potato commissions in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon officially launched a new cooperative effort in research. One aim of this initiative is to increase cooperation and efficiency of the research/extension programs funded by the three potato commissions that total almost \$2 million annually. A second aim is to facilitate competitive federal grants for potato research in the Northwest. Potato production across the region is substantially similar and faces similar research gaps. For the *third* time, a majority of this research funding will be allocated through a cooperative 3-commission research review process during the fall-winter of 2015-16. A nine-member Consortium board (3 members from each state) will review research proposals and make funding recommendations to the commissions.

Scope

The Consortium funds research in all aspects of potato production, breeding/variety development/genetics, and storage, and is open to considering research in food product development, processing, etc. All persons contemplating suggesting a new project should consult the list of funded projects posted on the website, www.nwpotatoresearch.com to avoid proposing something that conflicts with or duplicates existing research. We welcome scientists new to the region or to our funding to engage with us. A good first step is to contact Consortium Manager Dr. Andy Jensen about how your expertise and interests might best fit the research needs of the potato industry. Other valuable sources of guidance and input on research ideas are the established potato research and extension scientists across the region.

Time-line for fall/winter of 2015-16

Fall research planning discussions.

Dates: October 29-30

Location: Portland, OR, Sheraton hotel near the airport

Format: Industry members from each state will be present. Scientists will be scheduled to present concept proposals and answer questions from the group. Projects on similar topics will be grouped on the agenda to the extent possible. Each concept proposal discussion will be 10-15 minutes.

Schedule: One and a half days of concept proposals followed by an afternoon of industry discussion.

Purpose and intent: The aim is to have discussion among all present, i.e. scientists and industry members, about each concept proposal. Following the discussions, industry members present and the Consortium board will arrive at decisions regarding projects, teams, and ideas that will be expanded into full proposals for Consortium consideration in January.

Concept proposals: Scientists, as cooperating teams where appropriate, will put together brief concept proposals describing their team and their project objectives and rationale. *All projects must have attending representative(s) who will lead off discussion of the projects. As always, there is no guarantee that continuing projects will be funded.* All concept proposals are due to Andy Jensen (ajensen@potatoes.com) by September 28. The concept proposals will be provided to Consortium members and other industry attendees. An agenda for the meeting will be circulated on or about October 5.

Outcome: Within a few days after the meeting, project leads will be informed of the Consortium's desire to see a full proposal.

Full proposal deadline: December 15, 2015 (*by midnight*).

January, 2016: Individual potato commission research committees will review written full proposals and develop a ranking for later consideration by the Consortium board.

January 29, Kennewick: Final Consortium proposal review.

Consortium board members will review written proposals and base funding recommendations upon them. No presentations by scientists will be required.

Funding announcements (tentatively): following the March meetings of the three commission boards of directors.

WA/OR Potato Conference: Request for General Session Topics and Speakers

Believe it or not, the time has come to plan for the annual Washington-Oregon Potato Conference in Kennewick, WA. This year's event will be January 26-28, 2016. As we do each year, we are asking industry members in all sectors to suggest topics and speakers they would like to see covered during the general session of the conference. Generally, invited speakers are public-sector scientists, specialists, regulators, etc. and only rarely from private companies. A committee co-chaired by Andy Jensen and Mark Pavek will review all suggested topics/speakers and build a complete program by mid-October. We try to include as many of your suggested topics as possible each year.

Please send suggested topics and speakers, including from your own research/extension lab, to:

ajensen@potatoes.com.