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Division of Agriculture to host March 22 potato producer meeting

The Division of Agriculture has scheduled a March 22 meeting to discuss recent issues involving potato production in Alaska.

Topics include bacterial ring rot, Alaska's seed certification standards and the Alaska Seed Growers, Inc. proposal to implement new regulations requiring the use of certified seed on all commercial potato fields of an acre or greater.

The division is pleased to announce that Willem Schrage, potato programs director for the North Dakota State Seed Department, will address the meeting on national certification issues, including potato cyst nematode, late blight, bacterial ring rot and phytosanitary issues relating to international trade. Schrage has been active on various committees with the Potato Association of America, National Potato Council, U.S. Potato Board and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Prior to accepting his position in North Dakota, Schrage managed certification programs for Minnesota for 13 years.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and run through the afternoon. The meeting will be held at the Plant Materials Center, located at 5310 S. Bodenburg Spur in Palmer. To call in to the meeting, dial 1-800-315-6338, and enter 122# when asked for the passcode.

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