THE STATE of ALASKA
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Department of Natural Resources

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March 5, 2014

Please join us for an educational Potato Symposium being sponsored by the Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center, 5310 S. Bodenburg Spur, Palmer, Alaska on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. lunch will be provided at noon.

This educational symposium is to present potato growers and interested persons with the latest information concerning important diseases, disease management strategies and seed export basics for this internationally regulated crop.

The U.S. potato industry has been challenged by Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Bacterial Ring Rot (BRR) during the last few years. The National Potato Council has authorized funding research programs to help develop better disease management tools.

The Division of Agriculture is bringing the primary researchers involved with these national priority diseases to present information concerning PVY and BRR and the various management tools being used to reduce the threat of crop loss. Seed certification in the US and internationally plays a major role in this regulated crop.

The invited speakers are nationally recognized experts. This is an opportunity to learn from the best.

Dr. Stewart Gray:

Stewart Gray is a senior scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service and a Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell and the Pennsylvania State Universities. He received his MS in Entomology and PhD in Plant Pathology, both from North Carolina State University. Since moving to ARS and Cornell in 1987, his research has focused on the mechanisms of virus transmission by insects, virus epidemiology, host plant resistance to viruses, and virus disease management and control. He has responsibilities in virus disease management in potato and small grain crops. For the past 10 years he has worked closely with the US potato industry and USDA-APHIS to develop and implement the Bi-National Canada /U.S. Management Plan for Potato Viruses that helped maintain trade between the countries. He serves on the National Potato Council subcommittee for Seed Certification and Plant Disease Management and the North American Plant Protection Organization committee on potato diseases. He is the project leader for a national program on PVY management involving USDA, Cornell University, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Idaho, and the seed certification programs from 10 states. He is also project leader for a multinational BREAD project funded by the National

Science Foundation and the Gates Foundation aimed at the management of virus diseases affecting staple food crops in sub-Saharan Africa. He received the Meritorious Service Award from the National Potato Industry in 2009; he was the USDA, Agricultural Research Service Senior Scientist of the Year for the North Atlantic Area in 2013 and was recently elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Phillip Nolte (Phil):

Phil Nolte is an Extension Seed potato Specialist, University of Idaho in Idaho Falls. Phil Nolte has worked on potato and seed potato problems since 1979. He became the Extension Seed Potato Specialist for the University of Idaho at the Eastern District Extension office in Idaho Falls in June of 1991. Nolte's program focuses on seed potatoes but also includes seed-related problems in commercial production and general potato disease diagnosis and management. Recent research includes work on the potato mosaic virus complex (PVY & PVA), management of potato late blight, fungicide resistance studies in Fusarium dry rot and the effect of chemical application on wound healing (suberization) in cut seed. He serves as the Technical editor for the Potato Grower Magazine and as a contributing editor for the American Vegetable Grower Magazine. He also served as President of The Potato Association of America for the 2009-2010. Phil Nolte has a B.Sc. in biology from Moorhead State University in Moorhead, MN, MS and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from NDSU in Fargo, ND.

AWARDS AND HONORS
"Outstanding Service Award" Idaho Grower Shippers Association, 1996.
"Excellence in Outreach Award" University of Idaho, 2000.
"Award of Excellence 2008 for WERA-089 Potato Virus Disease Control."

Willem Schrage:

Willem Schrage was born in Holland, where he farmed three years before continuing his education. He attended Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Obtained MSc in Crop protection, nematology and weed science. He joined the International Potato Center of Lima, Peru and was stationed in Turkey and Tunisia. The emphasis of his work in the Mediterranean region was the advantages local seed potatoes can have over imported seed due to physiological age. He immigrated to Canada, employed by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture as seed potato extension specialist. After which he served the potato industry in that province for nine years as manager of the provincial potato marketing board, until he moved in 1994 to Minnesota to manage the state's potato inspection program. In 2007 he became the director of potato programs in North Dakota with the North Dakota State Seed Department. He writes regularly on national and international seed potato topics. He is secretary of the "Certification Section" of the Potato Association of America. He represents the US state seed potato certification agencies at the UNECE "Specialized Section on Seed Potatoes", of which he is vice chair. He was awarded the "Meritorious Service Award" by the National Potato Council in 2013.

Rob Davidson:

Dr. Robert D. Davidson is on a transitional appointment as a Professor with the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Colorado State University. He obtained two B.S. degrees and a M.S. degree in Plant Pathology from Montana State University and a Ph.D. degree in Plant

Pathology from Colorado State University. Rob has been involved with potatoes for over 38 years working in many capacities including running a potato laboratory testing service (7 yr), working with tissue culture programs (15 yr), managing the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center in Center, Colorado (8 yr), a stint as the Area Director for Extension programs in the six county San Luis Valley region (3 ½ yr), and, of course, managing the Colorado seed potato certification program (15 yr). His current appointment (8 yr) after stepping down as Manager of the Colorado Potato Certification Service includes working as their Plant Pathologist, working as a potato Extension Seed Potato Specialist, and working as an Agricultural Experiment Station scientist conducting research on potato and strawberry diseases. Current interests in the research arena include projects dealing with virus related problems like PVY, powdery scab, greenhouse management, and improving seed potato certification production methods. Rob was named Potato Researcher of the Year for 2013 by the Potato Grower magazine and was the co-recipient of the annual Colorado State University Outstanding Team award for research in conjunction with the CSU Cultivar Development Program housed in the San Luis Valley.

Keith Esplin:

Keith Esplin, Executive Director of the NEU Seed Cooperative, is an agricultural leader with over 35 years' experience in the potato industry. Keith Esplin's experience includes eight years as Executive Director of the Potato Growers of Idaho, representing growers in state and national issues. He also has extensive experience with grower education, and experience overseeing media relations and communications with both the Potato Growers of Idaho and the United Potato Growers of Idaho and America. Esplin served 20 years as a grower leader, with leadership positions with the Potato Growers of Idaho, National Potato Council, and US Potato Board, as well six years as president or board member of a large farm supply cooperative. He speaks fluent Spanish and is gaining proficiency in Portuguese. Most importantly, Esplin was raised on a family farm in Shelley, Idaho, and has 25 years of first-hand farm ownership and management experience. Esplin is currently working to establish NEU Seed as a national sales cooperative for U.S. seed potatoes, with members in Idaho, Montana, and Colorado. In the past year NEU Seed exported seed potatoes to Nicaragua, Brazil, Thailand, Mauritius, and Russia. Other target markets include Egypt, where variety trials are in the second year.

We look forward to your attendance. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact me at 761-3867.

Sincerely,

Franci Havemeister

Franci Havemeister
Director