THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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March 12, 2014

To: All Interested Potato Producers

The Division of Agriculture encourages you to participate in a voluntary testing program for diseases of concern. The PMC, in cooperation with the UAF Palmer Experiment Station Farm (station), will provide testing for Bacterial Ring Rot (BRR) and potato Virus Y (PVY). Testing and sampling will be conducted between April 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014 and is available all **commercial potato growers** who wish to participate in the program. **Producers must sign up for the program by March 31, 2014; to assure sufficient labor and supplies are available.**

This programmatic survey will define the disease levels in Alaska's potato industry. The information obtained will facilitate establishing control methods and other management strategies to keep disease levels to a minimum.

The three phase program is outlined below:

1. Pre-Plant BRR testing will be conducted at the station in Palmer. Tuber core testing will be initiated April 1, 2014; test results will be available prior to spring planting. Samples must be received by the station by April 15, 2014. Up to 400 tuber cores per lot will be tested and results will be available prior to planting. Coring tools will be provided upon request.

   Sample sizes for pre-plant BRR testing are as follows:

100 row feet to 1000 row feet	1% up to 50 tuber cores
1000 row feet to 2 acres	100 tuber cores
2 acres to 10 acres	200 tuber cores
10 aces to 100 acres	400 tuber cores

2. A seed lot grow out trial will be performed at the Palmer station on tuber samples provided by participating producers; from the seed lots you intend to plant. Tubers must be provided, following the sample rates above, to the Station by June 1, 2014 and must be labeled with the farm name, variety, and lot, generation (samples to be planted June 2, 2014). The tuber samples will be planted and observed during the growing season. These plantings will be tested for BRR and virus.

3. Inspection and sampling of potato plantings will be performed on your farm from late July through August 31, weather cooperating. A minimum of two lots per farm will be sampled and tested for BRR and PVY. Additional lots may be sampled on your farm if time and funding allows. Only lots entered into the 2014 seed certification program are eligible for field sampling.

Interested producers may sign up through this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PM9KBQT or provide the following information for each lot:

Grower Name:
Phone Number:
Variety:
# of lots:
# of tubers per lot:

I am interesting in participating in the following (circle those that apply):

1) **Tuber core testing for BRR**
2) **Seed lot trial**
3) **Field inspection. Limited to lots entered for certification inspection.**

Please send hard copies to:

The Plant Materials Center Attn: Kim Allen
5310 S Bodenburg Spur
Palmer, AK 99645

The program described above is a voluntary program, and has been developed to assist the potato seed industry in farm management. Your voluntary participation in the program will help develop a better understanding of the disease problems affecting the Alaska potato industry.

All test results are subject to Freedom of Information Requests.

If you have any questions, please call Bill Campbell at 745-8724.

Sincerely,

Franci Havemeister

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Director