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Sept 16, 2013

RE: NFPT/SCRI Program

Dear Industry Representatives,

We are quickly approaching our observation field day in East Grand Forks, MN on October 8th and 9th. Like the meeting we had last year, this should be a great opportunity to see many new varieties from all different trial sites across the US in a single day. In order to help facilitate the activities when we arrive in EGF we thought it would be good to provide everyone with an overview of what will be taking place and what we wish to accomplish.

First of all, to accommodate the larger group, we will meet Tuesday morning in the NPPGA (Northern Plains Potato Growers Assoc) building conference room right behind the USDA building. After the morning kickoff and some discussions, we will review and rate varieties over at the USDA facility. On Wednesday morning, we will be back at the NPPGA building to discuss the QSR process.

This year we will be reviewing 78 varieties produced in 5 trial locations: WA, ID, ND, WI, and ME. The process will be a visual review of all the different varieties. This initial viewing will be a physical observation and rating session for each of the varieties (all 5 areas of each together). Varieties will not be identified until after this session so as to not unintentionally skew the evaluations. Each participant will be provided with the materials and time to document all of their observations.

Each observation will be rated based on a simple scale to allow for consistent data points across all participants. Observations will include tuber length, shape, size distribution, uniformity, and variety merit for QSR applicability. After collecting the rating sheets the information will be compiled, and all the variety names will be disclosed. Past information on all varieties, including handouts on all returning 2011 and 2012 varieties, will be made available at the end of the rating process. This includes NFPT field and lab results along with past QSR test information, if applicable. So after the rating period, all participants will be provided a summary of all available information to date on every variety in the trials. At that point, everyone will be free to go back and complete their own descriptive observations on the whole set of identified varieties.

One difference this year from the previous is that each area trial will be represented by approximately 50 lbs for each variety, regardless of the actual yield. So we will be looking at equal volumes of all varieties and areas. Some have requested relative yield and specific gravity, so information will be provided on yield rank and SG for each variety within that specific trial. Aside from the 50 lbs of material that is viewed, the other remaining yield will have been separated at harvest and sent directly to QSR testing site for storage. We did this separation at the trial site to keep the samples random, reduce shipment bruising and optimize quality for both the EGF and QSR samples going directly to storage. The QSR material this year will be going to 3 different processor sites to provide for more of this important information on these new varieties. Our discussions on Wednesday morning will be centered on this QSR testing, how we standardize the process for everyone's benefit, and finally what we see as our next steps in the NFPT / SCRI project.

We're pleased that you are able to participate with us in this unique and cooperative effort!

East Grand Forks- NFPT/SCRI Field Day

Northern Plains Potato Growers Association Office

420 Business HWY 2 East, E Grand Forks, MN 56721

Tues, Oct 8th

- 0800: Welcome to EGF - Marty Glynn
Agenda/ Introductions - Paul Voglewede
Logistics of day's activities - Paul and Marty
- 0830-845: Financial Update - Dawn Carey
- 0845-930: SCRI Update / Database Demo - AJ Bussan and Paul Bethke
- 0930-1000: What's Next? - David Parish
SCRI Agronomic Trials
NFPT Hand-off to Industry
Acrylamide and Asparagine
- 1000-1200: Handouts / Rating sheets - Paul
Review/ Rate varieties - (at USDA Facility) - group
- 1200-1300: Lunch - (NPPGA conf room) - Provided by United States Potato Board
- 1300-1600: Continue Review/ Rate varieties
- 1600-1700: Collect rating sheets, varieties identified, handouts.
- 1700- 1800: Wrap up
- 1900: Group Supper – Sponsored by the United States Potato Board

Wed, Oct 9th

- 0800-0900: QSR Selections / QSR Results - How do we standardize the processes? David and AJ
- 900-1000: Standardizing QSR Process to date for JR Simplot - David Ingersoll
Different elements for McCain Foods - Jim Fuller
Different elements for Cavendish Farms - Zenaida Ganga
- 1000- 1030 Summary of different Processes - David P
Common Standard Definition for NFPT QSR processing
- 1030-1100: QSR Testing Logistics & Timeline - Paul V
- 1100- 1200 Conclusions, Next Steps and Wrap up - David P and AJ