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### **NEXT CPAC MEETING**

The next meeting of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (area II) will be held December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, in the CPAC office conference room.

### **CPAC ELECTIONS APPROACH**

The CPAC will be conducting its annual election February 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 2016. If you are interested in serving as a member of CPAC, please submit your name to the CPAC office as a nomination to be placed on the ballot. Women, minorities, and the disabled are encouraged to participate. Available positions include:

One Alamosa County Grower, One Rio Grande County Grower, One Saguache County Grower, One Costilla/Conejos County, Two Independent Handler, and One Bulk Shipper and an alternate for each position.

### **POTATO D.C. FLY-IN**

This February 22-25th potato growers and industry leaders from across the country will descend upon Washington D.C. as participants in the NPC's Potato Fly-In. Designed to give participants the opportunity to advocate for the industry's important federal policy priorities the Fly-In features speakers addressing key issues from both political and policy arenas. Attendees meet with officials from the U.S.D.A. and the E.P.A, and visit legislators on Capitol Hill as grass root advocates for the potato industry.

CPAC will pay the lodging and registration for four industry members to attend the Fly-In. If you are interested in participating please call the CPAC office. If there is interest from more than four, we will draw names.

### **DON'T FORGET THE COLORADO POTATO COOKBOOK!**

The cookbook is selling for \$10.00 and makes a wonderful Christmas gift. The book is a collection of recipes that were submitted from all over the U.S. Come by the CPAC office to purchase one for you, friends, and family.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We want to introduce you to the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association website. They have some great tools for consumers that Rachael will be sharing this month on our social media platforms. On their "Healthy Eating Success with Colorado Produce" page, you will find fact sheets on Colorado produce, including potatoes. These sheets explain to the consumer the seasonality, selection, handling, storage, preservation, nutrition and more about Colorado produce. There is also a Colorado produce calendar and tips for picking Colorado produce. As farmers we may know a lot of this information already but it's important to share these tools with consumers who may not know! Please feel free to share any of this information or anything else you find on our website and social media. It's vital that we get our story out!

### **MARKETING**

In conjunction with the Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools program, sponsored by United Fresh Produce, the CPAC committee donated 6 salad bars to these schools; Sterling, CO – 1 bar  
Mountain Valley, Saguache, CO – 1 bar  
Moffat County, Craig, CO – 2 bars  
Durango, Durango, CO – 1 bar  
Gwinnett County Schools, Lawrenceville, GA – 1 bar.  
The USPB will match our donation to these schools as part of the USPB Salad Bar Challenge, and will match your donation too if you want to donate. Students in grades K-12 eat over 5 billion school lunches each year, and one more serving of potatoes equates to 3,750,000 cwt. FWE. If you would like to learn more about donating please contact Linda. Colorado Potatoes and the Colorado Onion Association have teamed with the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) to promote potatoes and onions on 850 KOA radio during the remaining Bronco games this season. CPAC is a member of the CFVGA and looks forward to additional partnership opportunities in the future.

### **SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AG CONFERENCE FEB. 9-11<sup>TH</sup>**

Plan to spend some time listening to featured speakers: Gabe Brown, Jonathan Lundgren, Steve Vandiver, Blair Richardson, John Keeling and more.

### **SOIL HEALTH INSTITUTE**

With more than one million organisms in a single teaspoon of Earth, soil is the starting point for plant, animal and human life. It is the foundation for a healthy world.

To ensure that soil continues to be a vital natural resource for generations to come, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and Farm Foundation, NFP, announced the formation of the Soil Health Institute. The Soil Health Institute is an evolution of the Soil Renaissance, an initiative established in 2013 by the Noble Foundation and Farm Foundation to advance soil health and make it the cornerstone of land use management decisions.

The Soil Health Institute's mission is to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of the soil. It will work directly with conventional and organic farmers and ranchers, public- and private-sector researchers, academia, policymakers, government agencies, industry, environmental groups and consumers - everyone who benefits from healthy soils.

The organization will serve as the primary resource for soil health information, working to set soil health standards and measurement, build knowledge about the economics of soil health, offer educational programs, and coordinate research in all aspects of soil and soil health. "The Soil Health Institute will be a permanent organization that will coordinate the long-term work needed in this area" said Neil Conklin, president, Farm Foundation.

For more information about the Soil Health Institute, visit [www.soilhealthinstitute.org](http://www.soilhealthinstitute.org).

The CPAC research sub-committee is very interested in soil health research and has funded projects studying biological alternatives for nematode control, cover crop research, and is now looking at additional projects. If you have ideas please contact Jim.

**NPC**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has refused to consider requiring the labeling of biotech foods, affirming its longstanding policy that there's no reason for mandating such disclosure on products that are essentially the same as their conventional versions. The FDA rejected a petition by the Center for Food Safety asking for mandatory labeling of foods made with GMO's. Congress is currently negotiating a national, uniform labeling standard that brings transparency and consistency to the market place. But the current legislation has bogged down with Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) seeking more transparency for consumers by possibly requiring disclosure through smartphone codes and on the Internet.

Last week congress passed [H.R. 22, Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#). The bill will provide \$305 billion for improvements to U.S. roads and bridges. NPC believes that this will positively impact growers who rely on their produce arriving to its destination fresh and in a timely manner. The bill includes language authored by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and supported by the potato industry requiring the Department of Transportation to collect data on

the cargo handling performance of ports. This data will allow a more rigorous evaluation of the possible impact of strikes and work slowdowns on port performance.

This bill also included language that specifically repealed previous crop insurance cuts that were passed earlier in the compromise budget bill. The budget agreement would have required the Agriculture Department to cap crop insurance companies' rate of return at 8.9 percent, down from the current 14.5 percent which would have resulted in higher premiums for farmers.

**MEETING CALENDAR:**

12/17	CPAC Meeting
1/14-15	NPC Annual Meeting & USPB Winter meeting
1/12-14	Potato Expo Las Vegas
1/21	CPAC Meeting
1/23	Sponsor Adams St. BB Game
2/09-11	SLV Ag Conference

**NOVEMBER SPUD FACTS**

		<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Shipments	480 cwt equivalent	3348	3451	3121	3444	3670
Reds	percentage of crop	6.4	3.5	3.9	1.3	3.1
All Russet Varieties	percentage of crop	81.1	86.0	84.2	86.9	88.3
Yellow Varieties	percentage of crop	11.1	8.3	8.9	8.7	7.6
Other Varieties	percentage of crop	1.4	2.3	3.0	3.1	1.0
U.S. No. 1	percentage of crop	70.7	66.5	69.9	68.7	69.5
U.S. No. 2	percentage of crop	5.5	5.8	6.0	6.2	7.0
U.S. Commercial Grade	percentage of crop	21.9	26.1	22.3	23.7	21.4
Seed	percentage of crop	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3	2.1
Bulk	percentage of crop	35.6	33.6	31.1	32.0	33.1
Total rail shipments		179	258	215	119	78
Total truck shipments (fresh)		2889	2957	2661	3111	3336
Total truck shipments (processing)		280	237	245	214	256
Total shipments for the year thru November		8048	7522	7428	8691	8977

**Average F.O.B. prices for November**  
(per 50 lb. carton or bale unless noted)

		<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Yellows	5 lb packs	11.54	10.82	12.14	10.25	n/a
All Russets	U.S. #1 size A	5.78	5.64	7.60	5.35	7.75
All Russets	U.S. #2	4.92	5.00	6.25	3.95	6.15
Bulk Russets	U.S. Commercial Grade 100#	6.89	5.94	10.46	4.93	9.28

**On behalf of the CPAC staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to a prosperous New Year for the potato industry.**