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NEXT CPAC MEETING The next meeting of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (area II) will be held December 21st at 7:00 PM, in the CPAC office conference room.

UNITED POTATO GROWERS United Potato Growers of Colorado is conducting an inventory survey for December stocks on hand. Please take a few minutes to report your supply. All information is confidential and only reported in aggregate. Thank you for your cooperation in the industry data. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvPQ4DiOBr-WuIqGqYBqcXMiRUE1g1FiVkoEn3_YGRoZNagg/viewform?c=0&w=1

POTATO SEED LAW SUNSET REVIEW The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has begun the mandatory sunset review of the Colorado Potato Seed Act. This process will take several months and will require a great deal of input from all sectors of the potato industry. Brian Tobias, DORA director, was in the San Luis valley learning about the potato industry and how the Colorado Seed Potato Act has impacted the growers and shippers in the valley. He met with industry, and toured Aspen Produce and the CSU Potato Certification Disease Laboratory as an introduction to the industry. Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting at CPAC, and especially Doug Gunnels, Dwayne Weyers, Jed Ellithorpe, Dave Warsh, and Andrew Houser.

The Seed Law Advisory committee has asked the CPAC committee to facilitate the exchange of information in this process for Mr. Tobias by conducting an informational survey with potato growers. You may participate in the survey on-line at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3TBBVH>

Please take the time to give some thoughtful input. All responses are anonymous.

Thanks very much for taking the time and if you have questions please contact Jim Ehrlich at 852-3322, or jehrllich@coloradopotato.org

CPAC ELECTIONS APPROACH The CPAC will be conducting its annual election February 6th -8th 2018. 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:

Committee positions up for election include one Alamosa County Grower, one Rio Grande County Grower, one Saguache County Grower, one Costilla/Conejos County Grower, two Independent Handlers, one seed producer and one Bulk Shipper and an alternate for each position.

THE POTATO EXPO The Expo will be held Jan. 10th -12th in Orlando. To register and find agenda and speaker information go to www.potato-expo.com. The NPC meeting will be Jan. 12th-13th following the EXPO.

To register use this link: <http://nationalpotatocouncil.org/events-and-programs/annual-meeting/>

These events are separate and require separate registrations.

2018 NPC POTATO FLY-IN The Fly-in is February 26-March 1 in Washington, D.C. Potato growers and industry leaders will listen and learn as featured political and policy speakers address key issues facing the potato industry. Attendees will meet with administration officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Fly-In culminates with attendees taking to Capitol Hill to lead the industry's grassroots advocacy efforts. **The CPAC committee will assist**

a limited number of growers with registration and lodging for the Fly-in. Please contact the CPAC office if you are interested.

SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AG CONFERENCE FEB 6th-8th I am sorry to report that the schedule is still in flux and incomplete at this late date. Please contact Marvin Reynolds with any inquiries: Marvin.Reynolds@colostate.edu or 719-852-7381.

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.

FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL ENERGY PROJECTS The Colorado Energy Office and CDA are seeking applicants for agricultural energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program provides a turnkey approach that makes energy efficiency upgrades easy for producers. The program provides free energy audits, renewable energy site assessment, and technical assistance to producers. Energy used for irrigation and cold storage is eligible for this program. Applications are available online at www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/agricultural-energy-efficiency and at www.colorado.gov/agconservation/acre.

POTATO INDUSTRY SEEKING FUNDING FOR SOIL HEALTH Last week a team of researchers from potato growing regions across the U.S. jointly submitted the proposal "Enhancing Soil Health in U.S. Potato Production Systems" to USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Specialty Crop Research Initiative grant program. The proposal intends to identify and address research gaps related to both the pathogenic and beneficial soil organisms in soil and deliver meaningful information for grower use based on the research results. Scientists from Colorado State University are included in the initial proposal. Over one hundred letters of support accompanied the proposal including letters from the NPC and CPAC.

The CPAC research committee will be looking to extend our Soil Health research project beyond 2018 next week when the committee meets. If you have ideas or suggested priorities for research please contact Jim or Tyler Mitchell.

SOCIAL MEDIA This month marks the first of a three month campaign we are running with Simplemost. Simplemost is a lifestyle website that covers all aspects of life, including money, food, travel, fashion, home, DIY, parenting, travel and more. We'll be sponsoring both the food and nutrition sections of the site, as well as have sponsored content appear within these sections. By partnering with Simplemost, we can help educate consumers about the versatility and health benefits of potatoes!

To get into the holiday spirit, we're running a 12 Days of Cookbook Giveaways promotion on our Facebook page! From December 11 until 22, we'll be giving away one cookbook each day. To participate, each day there will be a quick and easy challenge on Facebook to complete. More information will be available during the promotion, so if you have not liked our page, be sure to do so. Last month, we hit 2,000 page likes! Thank you to everyone who continues to share our page and posts, and helps us spread the word of Colorado Potatoes!

MARKETING CPAC created a new size chart poster for potential buyers to use in determining the size of potatoes. Please let the CPAC office if you would like one. We updated our size flipchart with detailed information about size, variety, nutrition, etc. If you need these to share with your customers please let us know.

CPAC ran a 15 second commercial during the Bronco and Miami game on Sunday Dec 3rd. Although the Broncos have struggled this season, the ad reached nearly 1/2 million adults over the age of 18.

INTERESTING STORIES ON THE WEB

<https://www.harvestprofit.com/blog/what-separates-the-top-vs-the-bottom-farmers>

http://www.westernfarmerstockman.com/crops/biologicals-innovator-talks-future-tech?NL=FP-016&Issue=FP-016_20171211_FP-016_582&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_1_b&utm_rid=CPG02000002451598&utm_campaign=23055&utm_medium=email&elq2=c7230fbd834b4b98a60dcb2203f2002d

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP IN AGRICULTURE While potato prices are currently better than the last few years, I felt this was important to mention. Last week I attended a meeting at CDA where Commissioner Brown expressed his concern over the impact low commodity prices are having on the agricultural community in our state. Here are his paraphrased remarks: "When a farmer and rancher is facing a financial crisis, it can create an emotional toll on every aspect of life. From paying bills, to feeding children, caring for livestock and crops, retirement options, and even what they will be able to leave their heirs, the worry and anxiety can be overwhelming. The agricultural community has always come together to help our friends and neighbors in time of need. Reach out to the Colorado Crisis Services if you or someone you love is struggling."

Stress can cause physical and emotional health issues. This story addresses this:

https://www.agriculture.com/family/health-safety/stress-takes-a-toll-on-health?utm_source=ag-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=todaysnews_121117&did=199832

If you or someone you know needs help start here:

<http://coloradocrisiservices.org/>

MONTE VISTA FOOD BANK CHALLENGE We want to thank you for your continued support of the Monte Vista Food Bank; it is rare for them to ever be out of potatoes and for that they are very grateful.

As the holidays approach the Monte Vista Food Bank is always in need, and always gets great support from this community.

But, many times during the year the shelves are nearly bare.

So here is the challenge we are issuing, let's stock their shelves for the entire year!

If the Industry will give cash donations to the food bank, they will purchase the supplies they need, and report to us how they spend the funds.

CPAC will match the largest donation up to \$500! CPAC will accept checks written to the Monte Vista Food Bank until **December 15th**. So come on, challenge your neighbor, your family and your friends! Let's make a difference in this community and help those in need.

MEETING CALENDAR:

12/21	CPAC Meeting
1/12-13	NPC Annual Meeting& USPB Winter meeting
1/10-12	Potato Expo Orlando
1/18	CPAC Meeting
1/27	Sponsor Adams St. BB Game
2/06-08	SLV Ag Conference

NOVEMBER SPUD FACTS

		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Shipments	480 cwt equivalent	3435	3245	3348	3451	3121
Reds	percentage of crop	5.7	6.8	6.4	3.5	3.9
All Russet Varieties	percentage of crop	79.6	78.7	81.1	86.0	84.2
Yellow Varieties	percentage of crop	13.0	12.5	11.1	8.3	8.9
Other Varieties	percentage of crop	1.7	2.0	1.4	2.3	3.0
U.S. No. 1	percentage of crop	60.7	69.1	70.7	66.5	69.9
U.S. No. 2	percentage of crop	5.3	4.2	5.5	5.8	6.0
U.S. Commercial Grade	percentage of crop	32.3	24.4	21.9	26.1	22.3
Seed	percentage of crop	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.6
Bulk	percentage of crop	34.8	35.8	35.6	33.6	31.1
Total rail shipments		241	206	179	258	215
Total truck shipments (fresh)		2828	2761	2889	2957	2661
Total truck shipments (processing)		367	278	280	237	245
Total shipments for the year thru November		857	8136	8048	7522	7428

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

		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Yellows	5 lb packs	11.88	14.00	11.54	10.82	12.14
All Russets	U.S. #1 size A	7.56	5.75	5.78	5.64	7.60
All Russets	U.S. #2	5.89	5.00	4.92	5.00	6.25
Bulk Russets	U.S. Commercial Grade 100#	9.54	6.99	6.89	5.94	10.46

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