

September 18, 2018

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NEXT CPAC MEETING The next meeting of the CPAC (area II) will be held October 18th, at 7:30pm, in the CPAC office. There is no meeting in September.

POTATO FESTIVAL The day was a **HUGE SUCCESS** due to the great volunteers and community sponsorships CPAC received. Thanks so much to everyone that helped our event be successful, we can't do things like this without you. **A SPECIAL THANKS to Farm Credit of Southern Colorado and Peak Motor Sports for sponsoring Octane Addictions at Ski Hi Park.** Others deserving of our gratitude as sponsors: 1st Southwest Bank, Alamosa State Bank, Blanca Potato, Brown's Septic Service, C & L Container, C IA-Leavitt Insurance Agency, City of Monte Vista, Compost Technologies, Eagle Produce- Martinez Farms, Ecodynamics, Inc., Farm Fresh Direct, Frontier Bank, Idaho Pacific, McCormick & Milne, Metz Potato Company, Monte Vista CO-OP, Monte Vista Fire Dept., Monte Vista Potato Growers, Mountain King, Rio Grande Savings & Loan, Rio Grande Seed & Grain, San Luis Valley Health, CSU San Luis Valley Research Center, Skyline Potato Company, US Tractor & Harvest, Wall, Smith, & Bateman, Waste Management, Wenta Nip & Sanitizing, White Rock Specialties, Wilbur-Ellis, Michael Hensley, Logan Futrell, Preston Meraz, Nancy Meraz, Donna Wehe and SLV Health, Kim Villapando, Mark Peterson, Sheldon Rockey, Roger Mix, Dave Warsh, Tyler Mitchell, Brian Harrison, Byron and Jake Kunugi, Jason Tillman, Miguel Diaz, Jim Clare, Bob Mattive, Stephanie Chandler, CE Glunz- B & C Electric, Ron Martinez- Mountain View, Vali Theater, Gabe Futrell, Chief of Police John Rosecrans, Clay Brown, Sara Noller, M V Fire Department, M V Ambulance, Sargent FFA, Alamosa FFA, Adams State AgriBusiness, Grower Shipper Potato Co., CDA, Ing Tech Corp., Inspection Services, A&L Coors, Lenco West, Potatoes USA.

RESEARCH The research sub-committee will be meeting as soon as practical after harvest to set priorities for 2019 research projects. If you have suggestions please contact Jim or Tyler Mitchell. The Southern Colorado Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference planning is in full swing with many of the speakers and topics already invited and selected.

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW RE-PURPOSING PRESENTATION OCTOBER 17th Colorado State University and CPAC committee invite you to a presentation and discussion of CSU's educational role in the redevelopment of the National Western Center. Christie Vilsack, former senior advisor for educational programs at USAID, and former First Lady of Iowa, has joined Colorado State University, along with her husband, former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, as a special advisor in the planning and visioning around the National Western Center, a 250-acre redevelopment creating a 365-day-a-year vibrant destination that is a global center for ag heritage and innovation. More information on the NWC project is at www.nwc.colostate.edu. There will be a brief video presentation on the background and current plan, followed by a listening session and discussion about the future educational offerings that can build strong partnerships between the NWC and other areas of the state. Please join us for this discussion.

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Time: 9:30am – 11:00am

Location: San Luis Valley Research Center, 249 E. County Road 9 N, Center, CO 81125

If you cannot make the full hour and a half, feel free to stop by for whatever time you are available. Lunch will be provided after.

RSVP is not required, but always appreciated for the meal count. Please respond to lweyers@coloradopotato.org to RSVP or with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY Have you ever been frustrated when you're scouting and find a weed but for the life of you can't figure out what it is? Or have you seen lesions and just know it's a disease, but can't remember which one? BASF has launched a new app called the xarvio scouting app that allows farmers to snap a picture to identify weeds and diseases.

"The app has artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms that help identify weeds and disease in the field," said David Gray, xarvio's commercial and business development manager. "When you're in the app you snap a picture of the weed and it tells you with a percentage of confidence what you're looking at." BASF acquired xarvio from Bayer as a condition of Bayer's Monsanto acquisition. The system was launched in 2017 for the European market and is already used in 90 countries with nearly 60,000 users. With its artificial intelligence platform, as each picture is added to the system, the system gets smarter.

It works by using a remote server that contains more than 150,000 weed and disease images in a massive database for comparison. When you take a picture it quickly compares it to all other images to find a match, which is why adding more pictures increases the accuracy of the app. "We've used several thousand images to train the app and the algorithm gets smarter and more refined with each new image," Gray said. "The same weed in North Dakota may be slightly different than the Illinois version."

The disease ID is no slouch either. "The app works at the very early stages of infection when diseases can be harder to identify," Gray said. "We can identify each disease at the early stages when lesions are small and it's hard to distinguish." When you send pictures you'll get a faster response where internet is more reliable—speed also depends on the number of pictures you send. The app is free and can be found by searching for xarvio in the App Store or Google Play. Give it a try when you can. <https://www.greenbook.net/article/2018/09/05/artificial-intelligence-takes-guesswork-out-weed-and-disease-id>

FARM BILL Time is running short for the four leaders of the Farm Bill Conference Committee and their staffs to resolve outstanding issues before the end of September and the expiration of the current Farm Bill. Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kansas), Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas), Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minnesota) and their staffs have held a succession of meetings since the conference was formally announced earlier in September. The House version of the Farm Bill passed by one vote (213-211) with no Democratic support, while the bipartisan Senate version passed 86-11.

Two key priorities for the potato industry are funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and funding for Market Access Programs, including Technical Assistance grants for Specialty Crops. It is still undecided whether the Specialty Crop Research Initiative will be funded as intended at \$80 million, or at the substantially lower figure of \$55 million. Currently, 25 million of SCRI is dedicated to the citrus industry but their "carve-out" is due to expire at the end of September.

The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (The Alliance) is asking Congress to hold to the agreement made during the 2014 Farm Bill negotiations to fully fund SCRI. The Alliance is also pushing for full funding and program enhancements for export programs as the U.S. is dealing with substantial volatility in global trade. Also, a number of regulatory reform items remain undecided and are supported by the Alliance membership.

POTATO INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (PILI) The CPAC committee is soliciting applications for the 2019 PILI class. Interested growers should contact the CPAC office for an application. This year's program will take place from February 20-28th, beginning in Oregon and finishing in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the annual National Potato Council fly in. Expenses are covered for those selected to participate. The Potato Industry Leadership Institute (PILI) provides tools to help younger growers and industry members develop as leaders and motivate them to commit their time and energy to the betterment of the U. S. potato industry. The Leadership Institute is an eight-day program that provides an overview of the U.S. potato industry, the challenges and issues beyond the production sector, and the roles of the industry's state and national organizations in maintaining a positive business climate for potato growers. Time has proven that PILI graduates are one of the U.S. potato industry's greatest assets. The CPAC committee will select participants at the October 18th CPAC meeting.

CDA TOWN HALL SEPTEMBER 26th AT CPAC Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, Don Brown, invites the public to a town hall meeting to discuss today's agricultural challenges and successes. The meeting is open to the public, free of charge, and everyone is invited to participate. The meeting will be held on September 26th at 7:00 a.m. at the CPAC office in Monte Vista. The meeting will be followed by the Colorado Agricultural Commission meeting at 8:00 a.m. The public is invited to this meeting also. The San Luis valley is represented on the Colorado Ag. Commission by Alvin Kunugi of Blanca and Segundo Diaz of Monte Vista. The Ag. Commissioner will be touring the valley while here.

MARKETING CPAC is excited to kick off the new shipping season with Colorado Potato television promotion running on Denver area stations, CBS Channel 4 and Fox 31 as part of the Colorado Proud program. Our booth at the Colorado State Fair featured a Potatoes Power Performance quiz for attendees with the opportunity to win Foot Locker Gift Certificates. In October we will have a booth in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Agriculture pavilion at PMA. To help you increase your return we will continue to research and monitor market conditions and make the information available to you. We look forward to a successful shipping season for 2018-2019.

COLORADO AG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM The deadline to apply for a Fellowship with the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program is September 30, 2018. Applications can be found on the CALP website, coloagleaders.org, or by contacting the CALP office at (303) 547-5963, dani@coloagleaders.org. Applicants from all agricultural backgrounds, age groups and geographical locations in Colorado are encouraged to apply. Over a two year period, Fellows attend 10 seminars with 41 days of intense training. They will hear over 135 speakers, work with current leaders in agriculture, attend on-site visits, receptions and discussions, produce the Governor's Ag Forum twice and enjoy a network of over 300 alumni. CALP travels around the State, to Washington D.C. and internationally to study agriculture issues, political processes, and development of leadership skills, team building, fundraising and communications. The CPAC committee is committed to providing assistance to interested potato growers. Please contact Jim for more information.

SOCIAL MEDIA The Colorado Potato Facebook page has been packed with Potato Festival information this past month. In an effort to drive participation and gain impressions, we were very active on the San Luis Valley Potato Festival Facebook page. If you are missing out on our posts here is a quick solution! Go to the "Colorado Potatoes" page and be sure you "like" the page—if you have already liked it be sure that you "Follow" the page. If you hover over the "follow" button you can choose to add our posts to the top of your newsfeed. You will always be in the know with what is happening within the industry! With our new fiscal year look for our "Real Food. Real Performance. From our farm to your family." campaign amongst different online channels. When we have the final footage for the upcoming campaigns I will post them on our social media platforms. Be sure to like and follow our pages so you don't miss out.

MEETING CALENDAR:

10/18 Monthly CPAC Meeting
 10/18-20 PMA Fresh Expo, Orlando

AUGUST SPUD FACTS

		<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Shipments	480 cwt equivalent	979	759	572	849	830
Reds	percentage of crop	2.1	2.5	1.1	0.5	0.0
All Russet Varieties	percentage of crop	96.4	97.6	98.9	98.9	99.7
Yellows	percentage of crop	1.4	2.0	0.0	0.6	0.4
Other Varieties	percentage of crop	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
U.S. No. 1	percentage of crop	74.8	70.1	69.9	79.8	71.2
U.S. No. 2	percentage of crop	14.0	9.5	13.7	13.3	13.7
U.S. Commercial Grade	percentage of crop	11.2	20.4	16.4	5.6	15.1
Seed	percentage of crop	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
Bulk	percentage of crop	12.0	20.2	22.0	11.7	20.2
Total rail shipments		0	19	0	0	0
Total truck shipments (fresh)		752	565	338	653	717
Total truck shipments (processing)		227	175	234	196	113
Total year to date shipments		31016	32590	31812	32174	30176

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

		<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
All Russets	U.S. #1size A	8.65	5.33	6.09		6.70
All Russets	U.S. #2	7.00	4.38	4.32		5.34
Russet	U.S. Commercial Grade 100 lbs	10.83	8.43	7.86		10.09