

December 10, 2018

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NEXT CPAC MEETING The next meeting of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (area II) will be held December 20th at 7:00 PM, in the CPAC office conference room.

GAP AUDIT COST SHARING The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Fruit and Vegetable Section have introduced a pilot program to assist Colorado fruit and vegetable producers with the cost of USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audits. The cost-share incentive program is designed to encourage producers to undertake verification audits for the first time and help producers already participating in the program to continue. All potato buyers require some form of third party verification of food safety practices. The GAP and GHP voluntary audits verify an operation's efforts to minimize the risk of contamination of fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts by microbial pathogens. The administrative cost to producers for these verification audits has recently increased. Farmers who are new to the audit program can be reimbursed for half the cost of the entire audit, up to \$500 per audit. Farmers who are renewing their audits are eligible for reimbursement of one half of the new USDA administrative fee. Producers must submit an application for reimbursement. The application is available at www.coloradoagriculture.com or producers can request one by calling (719) 852-4749 or emailing brian.pauley@state.co.us. This form must be submitted to the Fruit and Vegetable Section office, with a copy of the audit certificate, the invoice(s) showing the cost of the audit, proof of payment and a completed W-9. Applications will be reimbursed in order in which they are received, as long as funds remain available. Audits must have been conducted on or after October 1, 2018. Audits eligible for reimbursement include: Basic GAP/GHP, Produce GAP Harmonized, and Harmonized GAP Plus+. This cost-share program is made possible by a Specialty Crops Block Grant from USDA, obtained by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

THE POTATO EXPO the Expo will be held Jan. 9th-10th in Austin. To register, find agenda and speaker information go to www.potato-expo.com. The NPC meeting will be Jan. 11th following the EXPO. To register use this link: <http://nationalpotatocouncil.org/events-and-programs/annual-meeting/> These events are separate and require separate registrations.

BARN OWL DRONE SERVICES MEETING DECEMBER 11 AT CPAC - NOON

Ever wondered if using a drone would help you be a better farmer? This summer the CPAC committee partnered with Barn Owl and the CSU Ag. Experiment station to test the use of drones in monitoring crop conditions on the CSU farm. Jaron Hinkley with Barn Owl and Tyler Thompson from CSU will discuss what they learned this summer and the services that Barn Owl offers through Farmers Edge which include satellite imagery, weather stations, equipment monitoring, soil testing, fertilizer prescriptions, and variable rate mapping. Learn more at <https://www.farmersedge.ca/>

FARM BILL Last week Senate AG committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) announced that final details were being worked out on the Farm Bill. The intention of House and Senate leadership is to move forward with a vote this week. The prior Farm Bill expired at the beginning of October. The bill has come under some criticism recently but the current bill will provide resources for vital trade programs in the middle of a trade war and increase funding for specialty crop research.

2019 NPC POTATO FLY-IN the Fly-in is February 25-28th 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 joining the Potato Leadership Institute (PILI) class in marching on Capitol Hill. This is your chance to meet with congressional leaders to express the potato industry's views on relevant industry concerns. The CPAC committee will assist a limited number of growers with registration and lodging for the Fly-in. PILI participants this year are Jessica Crowther and Jake Burris. Please contact the CPAC office if you are interested in attending the fly in.

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.

SNOW PACK As of December 3rd the Rio Grande basin snow pack was 88 % of average. Most of Colorado is in better shape. Reservoir levels across the state are seriously depleted from last year's drought. <https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/news-and-publications/news/early-snowpacks-nearly-90-percent-ahead-of-last-years-drought-plagued-lows/>

SOCIAL MEDIA Introducing... **Rudolph the Russet!** ('Tis the season for holiday shenanigans!)

This year, CPAC will have Rudolph the Russet landing throughout the website: coloradopotato.org. Given that Santa has 8 reindeer and Rudolph (9 total) we will have random drawings for daily giveaways for people that like our Facebook Page (Colorado Potatoes), visit our website and find the reindeer, and comment with what the post says to do! The Reindeer will begin landing on our page on December 11th and will land Tuesday-Friday and the following Monday-Friday. Be sure to like our Facebook Page now, so you can compete for the drawings all nine days.



Watch for this guy on our website.

Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays!

SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AG CONFERENCE Feb.5-7th Mark your calendars for this year's conference. The format has changed this year with Tuesday's focus on agronomics; Wednesday's will be business, and Thursday zeroing in on irrigation and water. The keynote speaker on Wednesday will be Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Brown. Come learn from some accomplished experts and visit with knowledgeable vendors.

MARKETING As we continue to push the Potatoes Power Performance message that Potatoes USA has researched to be the industries target market, the below information tells us we should work hard to improve these numbers.

Total store potato sales, for the July – September 2018 period compared to the same quarter the previous marketing year, were down -1.9% in volume but were up 1.3% in value based on a 5.0% increase in the price per pound. Fresh potato sales were down -6.1% in volume but up 1.2% in value with a 7.5% increase in the price per pound.

The decline Fresh sales volume was once again driven by russets, with 65% share of volume, they were down -9.9% for the quarter but down only -0.1% in value based on a substantial 10.9% increase in the price per pound. Red sales had the opposite results with the price per pound declining -3.3% which led to a -2.3% decline in the value despite a 0.4% increase in volume. Yellow sales continued to grow, up 2.5% in volume and 6.1% in value. Ten-pound and eight-pound bags declined from a year ago in both value -4.8% & -6.1% and volume -3.5% & -4.1% respectively.

CPAC will be doing 3 ads on Fox new channel 31 during the following football games; Sun 12/9 Philadelphia at Dallas, Sun 12/16 Green Bay at Chicago, and Sun 12/23 game TBD

CPAC ELECTIONS APPROACH The CPAC will be conducting its annual election February 7th -9th 2019. 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 Independent Handler, one seed producer and one Bulk Shipper and an alternate for each position.

UNITED POTATO GROWERS OF COLORADO December 2018 Market Update; The December 1st stocks on hand (inventory) count is an important number every year to determine post-Thanksgiving supply, but this year it is especially important that every potato growing area have accurate supply data. United of Colorado is collecting this information from all growers. The data is confidential and only reported in aggregate. Gross numbers are needed to form this report; please report all seed including seed reserved for on-farm use and Bs. A full accounting of all supply is greatly appreciated by United staff. This information is confidential and only reported in aggregate. Data can be submitted by clicking the following link: DECEMBER POTATO STOCKS SURVEY. Thank you for being supportive of the local potato industry.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dIYFSmY3rgfk4LqXSYak6VZhaluweDGVpYVtmeJO4AA/>

MEETING CALENDAR:

12/20	CPAC Meeting
1/07-09	Potato USA Winter meeting
1/09-10	Potato Expo Austin
1/11	NPC Annual Meeting
1/17	CPAC Meeting
2/09	Sponsor Adams St. BB Game
2/05-07	SLV Ag Conference

NOVEMBER SPUD FACTS

		2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Shipments	480 cwt equivalent	3318	3435	3245	3348	3451
Reds	percentage of crop	6.2	5.7	6.8	6.4	3.5
All Russet Varieties	percentage of crop	79.5	79.6	78.7	81.1	86.0
Yellow Varieties	percentage of crop	12.7	13.0	12.5	11.1	8.3
Other Varieties	percentage of crop	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.4	2.3
U.S. No. 1	percentage of crop	65.8	60.7	69.1	70.7	66.5
U.S. No. 2	percentage of crop	5.8	5.3	4.2	5.5	5.8
U.S. Commercial Grade	percentage of crop	26.4	32.3	24.4	21.9	26.1
Seed	percentage of crop	2.0	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.6
Bulk	percentage of crop	33.4	34.8	35.8	35.6	33.6
Total rail shipments		172	241	206	179	258
Total truck shipments (fresh)		2742	2828	2761	2889	2957
Total truck shipments (processing)		402	367	278	280	237
Total shipments for the year thru November		8303	8579	8136	8048	7522
Average F.O.B. prices for November (per 50 lb. carton or bale unless noted)						
		2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Yellows	5 lb packs	12.57	11.88	14.00	11.54	10.82
All Russets	U.S. #1 size A	8.28	7.56	5.75	5.78	5.64
All Russets	U.S. #2	6.55	5.89	5.00	4.92	5.00
Bulk Russets	U.S. Commercial Grade 100#	9.78	9.54	6.99	6.89	5.94