

September 3, 2020

Compiled by CPAC Staff- (719) 852-3322 FAX (719) 852-4684

Web Page: www.coloradopotato.org Email: jehrich@coloradopotato.org

NEXT CPAC MEETING

The next meeting of the CPAC (area II) will be held October 15th, at 7:30pm, in the CPAC office. There is no meeting in September.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL. ENJOY YOUR HARVEST AND THINK SAFETY FIRST.

POTATO HARVEST CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 12TH AT CHAPMAN PARK

The CPAC committee will be at the park from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. celebrating potato harvest. We will be selling potatoes and serving free baked potatoes to the community while they last. For a minimum donation of \$3 you can purchase two 5 lb. bags of potatoes. The funds raised will be donated to the Friends of Ski Hi for the building renovation project. Executive Chef Jason Morse, [5280 Culinary](#), will be here with his amazing food truck preparing fresh, nutritious baked potatoes. This event is designed as a drive-thru atmosphere to keep people safe from COVID 19 and still recognize the value of our industry to the surrounding communities. Please come out to support the Ski Hi project and celebrate the potato harvest with us.

CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM- U.S.D.A.

If you are a potato grower you are eligible for this program at some level. For a russet potato grower who sold potatoes between Jan 15-April 15th without a contract you are likely eligible for at least a \$7/cwt. payment for those potatoes. As of September 3rd, russet potato growers across the nation have received over \$63 M in payments. [CFAP Payments](#)

You must apply for this program by Friday September 11th at your local FSA office.

NPC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Potato Industry Leadership Institute brings together outstanding potato growers and industry representatives for eight days of training and professional development. The annual program will be held February 18-25, 2021 with activities in both Bakersfield, CA and Washington, D.C. Participants will receive an overview of the local and national potato industry challenges and issues beyond the production.

The class will then fly to Washington, D.C, and hear from public policy and communication experts. They will practice effective delivery of key messages in preparation for joining other growers from their state in educating members of Congress on the U.S. potato industry and policies impacting it. **If you are interested in this opportunity please contact the CPAC office at 852-3322.** It is a great opportunity to develop your leadership skills and create networks in the potato industry.

MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA

The 2020 season is off to a great start! CPAC has partnered with Andy Burns at FOX31 for some TV commercials during the harvest season. This campaign kicked off on September 7th and will run through the 28th. During the 4 week campaign, we will have 45 total spots on KDVR and KWGN. We will have our commercials running during the news segments in the morning, evenings and nights. Be sure to keep your eyes open for those spots! ☺ We're thankful to have the opportunity to partner with FOX31 again this year and reach out to our Front Range consumers.

As we head into the new season, we encourage you to use the new Colorado Proud logo on packaging and promotions. If you need the new logo, please contact me at jcrowther@coloradopotato.org and I will get it over to you!

Sending you all harvest blessings! As always, if you are on social media please be sure to follow and "like" our Colorado Potato pages.

HARVEST STORAGE TIPS

Everyone loses from potato bruises. These articles are a helpful review as we start harvest.

Dr. Jayanty has provided the attached article- "Preparing the Potato Storage for the Season".

[Refining Storage Management](#), by Bob Hesse, from the 2007 Washington State Potato Conference. Still good information today.

This story from American Vegetable Grower provides some basic harvest tips for limiting bruising [Harvest Tips](#)

NPC NEWS

Senators are expected to vote on the Senate GOP's "skinny" COVID-19 relief bill when they return to Washington, D.C. next week. The Senate GOP COVID-19 relief proposal is leaner than their previously introduced HEALS Act proposal. The bill includes business liability protections, \$300 for Federal unemployment benefits, USPS funding, and an authorization for a second round of Paycheck Protection Program loans. The proposal does not include any additional funding for USDA; the HEALS Act included \$20 billion in new funding. However, it appears that negotiations are still on-going so the bill is not set yet.

The NPC wants to hear from you on what you would like to see at the upcoming **2021 Potato Expo**. Click [here](#) to tell them what you want to see in January. The decision on whether the event will be in person, virtual, or a hybrid will be made in late October-early November.

COLORADO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION APPLICATIONS OPEN

Every 10 years after the Census, Colorado redraws its congressional and legislative districts to equalize population. Simple in theory, this process has increasingly been subject to gerrymandering and political games in Colorado. Gerrymandering takes place when one party controls the process and attempts to pack as many of the opposing party's voters into as few districts as possible to maximize the number of districts favorable to its own party.

In 2018, Colorado voters approved Amendments Y & Z to help end gerrymandering by creating two politically balanced citizens commissions, one to redraw congressional districts and one to redraw legislative districts. Now, it's up to us to make sure this process will only work as intended.

Ensuring a fair redistricting starts with you! Applications for both the Congressional and Legislative Redistricting Commissions are now live. (You can apply for both.) Please see <https://redistricting.colorado.gov/> to complete your application. (You can start the applications now and complete them later.)

Have questions about whether you qualify and how the system works? Visit [Colorado Neighborhood Coalition!](#) If you have questions or need guidance about the application process, call our citizen information hotline at (720) 295-1662 or email us at admin@coloradoneighborhoodcoalition.org.

RESEARCH

One advantage of COVID 19 has been the opportunity to view all **Plant Management Network webcasts for free**. There is a great deal of information available to you on these webcasts from the best potato researchers in the country. [Focus on Potato Webcasts](#) Colorado State University researchers Dr. Courtney Jahn and Dr. Jane Stewart are participating in a national Specialty Crop Research Initiative project on soil health. While COVID 19 has slowed the project down it has not stopped the majority of the work from happening this year. To learn more about the project check out this website. [Soil Health SCRI](#) Dr. Jahn and Dr. Stewart are planning to update the research sub-committee in early November on this project as well as their Specialty Crop Block Grant Soil Health project as it nears completion.

CDA

Several potato growers and ranchers were able to meet with Governor Polis and Ag Commissioner Greenberg on August 26th at the Segundo Diaz farm as they kicked off a statewide drought tour. It was a good meeting and we were encouraged to hear the Governor's comments of not being in favor of more trans-basin diversions of water within the state of Colorado. To read the Denver Post story; [SLV Water Challenges](#)

Governor Polis initiated the Drought Ag Impact Task Force in June to address the impacts the drought is having on Colorado ag producers across the state. Preliminary data from the Colorado Climate Center indicates that August was the warmest August on record statewide and the drought conditions are obviously worse. If you have comments you would like to share with the drought task force about the drought's impact on your farming operation please add them here; [Your drought story](#)

Jenifer Koch has been tapped as the new inspector to fill the position left by Mike Singer's retirement. Jennifer is a San Luis Valley resident and graduated from Monte Vista High School. She has worked in the potato industry since 2012 and with CDA in the Fruit and Vegetable Section since 2015. Jennifer brings new energy and enthusiasm to the division in her new role. Jennifer's first day in her new role was July 13th, 2020. Her email is Jennifer.Koch@state.co.us and she can be reached at 719-580-5507.

POTATO MARKET NEWS

According to North American Potato Market News the 2020 crop forecast will likely have an over-all supply decrease of 5.4 % compared to the 2019 crop. The outlook for russet table supplies is optimistic but there is a great deal of uncertainty yet. Harvest is just getting under way in most regions so yield estimates are unsure and how the world is going to continue to react to COVID 19 is yet to be determined. The Colorado crop looks promising but it is still very early in the season.

MEETING CALENDAR:

9/12 Potato Harvest Celebration- Chapman Park
10/15 Monthly CPAC Meeting

AUG						
		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Reds	Percentage of Crop	2.1	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.1
All Russet Varieties	Percentage of Crop	89.3	96.9	96.4	97.6	98.9
Yellows	Percentage of Crop	8.4	2.6	1.4	2	0
Other Varieties	Percentage of Crop	0.3	0.1	0.1	0	0
U.S. No. 1	Percentage of Crop	65	71	74.8	70.1	69.9
U.S. No. 2	Percentage of Crop	4.2	11.6	14	9.5	13.7
U.S. Commercial Grade	Percentage of Crop	29.1	17.4	11.2	20.4	16.4
Seed	Percentage of Crop	1.8	0	0		0
Bulk	Percentage of Crop	44.2	18	12	0	22
Total Rail Shipments	480 CWT Equivalent	0	0	0	19	0
Total Truck Shipments (Fresh)	480 CWT Equivalent	1959	1233	752	565	338
Total Truck Shipments (Processing)	480 CWT Equivalent	210	269	227	175	234
Total Monthly Shipments	480 CWT Equivalent	2169	1502	979	740	572
Total YTD Shipments	480 CWT Equivalent	30828	34651	31016	32590	31812
AVERAGE F.O.B. PRICES FOR AUG						
(per 50 lb. carton or bale unless noted)						
		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Reds	U.S.#1 A 5#					
Yellows	5#					
All Russets	U.S. #1 Size A	10.55	7.41	8.65	5.33	6.09
All Russets	U.S. #2	7.00	6.00	7.00	4.38	4.32
Russet	U.S. Commerical Gra	15.00	9.00	10.83	8.43	7.86