

## 1984 RESEARCH PROPOSAL

by

Mike Lewis, Area Extension Potato Specialist  
and  
Mike Thornton, Research Horticulturist

Harvesting and bruising are problems that continue to plague potato growers. Each year it is an on-going race against time and Mother Nature to harvest a crop. In a number of cases, the potato suffers from bruising and skinning, thus reducing the profit margin.

At the 1984 Potato and Grain Conference, Dr. Robert Thornton, Extension Potato Specialist from Pullman, Washington, talked on harvesting and ways to adjust harvesters to maximum speed while minimizing bruising.

### PROPOSAL

Dr. Robert Thornton has made an offer to train Mike Lewis and Mike Thornton on-site in Washington on the newest techniques of harvesting and harvester adjustment. This training would take place the second week of October, 1984, when the harvesting is in progress in Washington.

New potato seedpiece cutting and sizing technology would also be studied.

This two-year project would provide training the first year and the second year, establish a series of research projects, viz:

1. Working with different types of harvesters - researching various adjustments for speed and decreased bruising under Valley conditions.
2. Teach Valley growers how to make their own harvester adjustments.
3. Provide information on new seed cutting techniques.

### BUDGET PROPOSAL

by

Mike Lewis  
Area Extension Potato Specialist

Mike Thornton  
Research Horticulturist

Round-trip Airfare to Pullman, Washington	\$1,000.00
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Meals, lodging and training travel expenses will be supplied in cooperation with the CSU Extension Service and Research Center.



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To: SLV Research Center Committee

Date: April 12, 1984

From: Clark H. Livingston *CHL*

Subject: Revised Research Proposal and Budget Request for 1984

Each of the suggestions as presented in your letter of March 29 have been given full consideration in the preparation of this revised proposal. I discussed our research objectives and methods with Mrs. West to determine if there was duplication of effort or if there was any way they could assist with our program. It was mutually agreed that there was no duplication and that only we could conduct our proposed studies.

The plant placement and retrieval to and from the CSU greenhouses and sticky trap evaluations will be made on a weekly basis for a period of the first eight weeks of the growing season (June 5 to July 31) rather than the full 16 week period as originally proposed. Regarding the final point in your letter as to the need for further research on other potential vectors of the leaf roll virus, there is no reason to expect or even suspect any insect other than aphids as vectors of (Luteoviruses) PLRV or BWYV. However, we are keenly interested in the role which the potato aphid - Macrosiphum euphorbiae - may play in addition to the known role of the green peach aphid.

CHL:jw