

TO: Task force regarding seed vs. commercial potato communication

FROM: Colorado Certified Potato Growers' Association (CCPGA)

Following the discussion of the task force held on March 25th, the CCPGA Board of Directors had the chance to meet and review several requests made by this group. Thank you for bringing these items to our attention. The suggestions were valid and in many cases easy to act upon:

- 1) *A request for more input by the commercial industry into the Colorado certified seed potato industry...* Action - there will be an additional commercial grower representative asked to attend CCPGA Board of Director's meetings bringing to two the number of commercial growers invited for input. Currently, Keith Holland represents the San Luis Valley commercial industry in this regard.
- 2) *A request for more input by the commercial industry into the "CSU/CCPGA Advisory Committee" dealing with Plant Variety Protection...* Action - both commercial grower representatives on the Board will be asked to attend each Advisory Committee meeting.
- 3) *A request for better communication between the certified seed potato industry and the commercial industry...* Action - a newsletter targeting the local San Luis Valley potato industry will be sent out every three months detailing seed related issues, actions which have been taken or are contemplated, and discussions focusing on issues such as PVP.
- 4) *A request for better local service in the certified seed potato market including more attention by seed growers to size, grade, price, etc....* Action - The Generation 6 category of certified seed potatoes was changed substantially to attract additional growers into the program by reducing the price per acre necessary to certify this particular class and by slightly raising the tolerance on mosaic to allow for greater flexibility in production. The CCPGA Board is additionally considering a program which will deliver a specific size range and price with Generation 6 class seed to fit local market needs.

There were some suggestions made, however, which the Board is unable to carry out:

- 1) *A request to allow common seed sales of potatoes under PVP.* There are no provisions for allowing a split program under the Federal PVP legislation. While a grower is able to purchase seed under PVP and grow it on his/her own farm for repeated generations with sale of the production within commercial channels, sale of common seed is not allowed.
- 2) *A request to remove San Luis Valley growers from payment of royalties on all Colorado PVP material.* The specific agreement between CSU and the CCPGA explains that royalties shall be charged for sale of PVP material to all growers. However, the CCPGA recognizes that the overall potato industry in the San Luis Valley has contributed greatly to the development of new cultivars, and as such, royalties charged will be either phased in (as is being done with the Russet Norkotah Selections) and/or reduced for the life of the protection for the cultivar.

Recently, a survey of other states was completed to review how much money is generated by each state's potato industry to finance research and other related activities. State by state responses to the amount of money assessed the potato industry follow...

<u>State</u>	<u>Total assessment</u>	<u>Research total (ballpark figures)</u>
Maine 115.7	\$0.05/cwt	Annual total \$125,000 - \$225,000 No cap
Red River Valley (Mn/ND) 41.0	\$0.03/cwt	Annual total \$400,000 (\$0.01/cwt) No cap
Wisconsin 24.5	\$0.04/cwt	Annual total \$250,000 (\$0.01/cwt)
Idaho (promotion separate) 122.0	\$0.04/cwt	Annual total \$400,000 - \$800,000 (\$0.01/cwt) (\$1.2 million max)
Oregon 23.1	\$0.04/cwt	Annual total \$300,000 (\$0.01/cwt)
Washington 74.1	\$0.04/cwt	Annual total \$500,000 (\$0.01/cwt)
Colorado 23.1	\$0.04/cwt	Annual total \$200,000 (\$0.01/cwt) 57% toward research, 43% toward IPM & SLVRC activities

¹Production figures recorded in millions cwt sold (1995); based upon 1997 NPC Statistical Yearbook.

Oregon -
25% budget
research
32% promotion

CALIFORNIA

No response

\$75,000 -

FLORIDA

No response

IDAHO

\$.04 cwt with \$.01 toward research or \$400,000. No more than 1.2 million or \$800,000 for the year. I think this is the way I heard it.

MAINE

\$.05 cwt for budget. Traditionally, \$125,000 to \$225,000 toward research with no cap. This past year however only \$14,000 was allocated which was an incredibly low figure and probably will never happen again. Three years ago they committed \$70,000 a year for five years for a new research lab. He said the figures should return to normal this year.

RED RIVER VALLEY - MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA

3% of budget. Seems there is no cap, but could not get the amount out of him. He said it was published so I'm not sure why he wouldn't just give it to me.

NEW YORK

Program is completely volunteer by the Growers - the same Growers pay every year, the same don't. \$2 per acre goes into research and the organization matches every \$2 with \$1. It's called the Empire State Potato Club, Inc. and it owns and operates a farm show where most of the dollars come from. She would not give me a percentage or an amount of monies brought in by the growers. The voluntary basis began five years ago and seems to be going well, only because the Club picks up the slack and decides what is needed in research and what is not. And who owns the Club, I don't have a clue, but their main priority is research.

OREGON

\$.04 cwt. She said that the whole amount goes into research, even when I questioned her about the entire budget. She was pretty confident that the \$.04 was completely for research. Again, I could not get an amount. So, you can take that for what it's worth.

WASHINGTON

\$.04 cwt. The budget is two million with approximately \$.01 toward research or \$500,000.

WISCONSIN

\$.04 cwt. For the last two years they have paid approximately \$250,000 each year for research. Did not get the total money amount for budget, but it's probably published somewhere too.