

March 8, 2016

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**NEXT MEETING** of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (area II) will be held March 17, at 7:30pm, in the CPAC office conference room.

#### **DOUG MONTER SCHOLARSHIP**

Graduating male seniors should contact their school counselor for information and an application regarding this annual CPAC scholarship. Deadline to have them to the CPAC office is COB April 1. <https://www.coloradopotato.org/949-2/>

#### **CPAC AT AG DAY IN DENVER**

The Government Affairs sub-committee of CPAC will be participating in the Ag Day celebration at the state capitol in Denver on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will deliver potatoes to the legislature and staff, and assist with the Chef-Legislator cook-off at noon inside the capitol. Ag Day raises awareness of the importance of agriculture in our state and country. The Colorado Agriculture Council, of which CPAC is a member, uses Ag Day to combat hunger in our state by fund raising for the Food Bank of the Rockies. If you want to learn more, donate, or participate please contact Jim. We encourage your participation.

#### **CPAC COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS:**

##### **Costilla/Conejos County**

MEMBER Jared Smith ALTERNATE Byron Kunugi

##### **Saguache County**

MEMBER Kent Palmgren ALTERNATE Kent Price

##### **Rio Grande County**

MEMBER Roger Mix ALTERNATE Ron Crowther

##### **Alamosa County**

MEMBER Tyler Mitchell ALTERNATE Miguel Diaz

##### **Bulk Shippers**

MEMBER Doug Cooper ALTERNATE Mark Deacon

##### **Independent Handler**

MEMBERS Dwayne Weyers, David Tonso ALTERNATES Mike Mitchell, and Jason Tillman

**MARKETING:** CPAC would like to thank the Colorado Potato Industry for stepping up and meeting the salad bar challenge! With your help, we have completed our commitment to get 10 salad bars this fiscal year into schools across the country. To help us meet our goal the following industry leaders generously donated:

Kurt Kaiser, Steve VanTreese Farm, Aspen Produce, Mike Mitchell Farms, Kent Price Farms, Keith Holland Farm, Hi-Land Potato Co., RPE Colorado, Peterson Farms, Rockey Farms, Martinez Farms and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetables Growers Association

The schools that have been chosen to receive these bars are St. Michaels Indian School NM, Dalton GA, Frisco TX, Harts Bluff TX, Henrietta TX, Cleveland TX. Mtn.Valley Schools CO, Sterling CO, LaJara CO, Durango CO, and Sanford CO. The USPB will match each of these donations with our suggested schools.

Thanks to the generosity of these growers, more children will hopefully get more fruits and vegetables for school lunch.

**INTRODUCING SAVANNAH** Hello there! My name is Savannah Schlaufman and I have recently joined the CPAC team as the new Marketing Administrative Assistant. A little about me: I'm a Colorado native and have called the San Luis Valley home for about ten years now. I recently graduated from Adams State University, where I am currently attending graduate school for my MBA. While I am new to CPAC, I am very excited to be a part of the team! I've had the pleasure of meeting many of our board members, growers and shippers in my time here so far. I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone, so if you are ever in the area, make sure to stop by the CPAC office and say hello!

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website. The URL is the same ([www.coloradopotato.org](http://www.coloradopotato.org)), so be sure to stop by and see the new design and all of the new features! The new website will have some additional sections, including a potato blog and a featured shipper/grower segment. If you would like to be featured in this section, please contact Savannah at [sschlaufman@coloradopotato.org](mailto:sschlaufman@coloradopotato.org), and we can forward a grower/shipper profile to you to fill out and return to us. The process is easy, so we really encourage you to participate. The new website also has many of the favorite features of the old website, but with an updated, modern design. The redesign also prominently features our brand new CPAC logo-so make sure to check it out!

#### **NPC FLY-IN**

CPAC was well represented at the NPC Fly-in from February 22-25<sup>th</sup> with twelve participants, including our Potato Leadership Institute nominee Tyler Thompson from the CSU research farm. The group visited all nine Colorado congressional offices focusing primarily on funding for potato breeding, national pre-emption for GMO labeling, the Trans Pacific Partnership treaty, and policy issues concerning the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **GMO LABELING**

The biotech labeling debate is gearing up for a final showdown on the Senate floor, maybe even this week. Leaders of the Senate Agriculture Committee have been negotiating details of a compromise version of the bill that would preempt state GMO labeling laws. The key to passing a bill is working out labeling disclosure requirements that could appeal to enough Democrats to overcome an expected filibuster. The industry-backed Coalition for Safe Affordable Food, which includes the NPC, launched an effort last week to get farmers to call into Senate offices.

The committee's legislation would allow food companies to proceed with plans to disclose biotech ingredients through a

smartphone code or on the web through the new SmartLabel system. A possible compromise proposed by Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., would make the disclosure system mandatory if it doesn't cover at least 85 percent of relevant products within four years. Opponents have labeled the preemption bill the "DARK Act," as in "Denying Americans the Right to Know." They want Congress to instead mandate that companies put wording or a symbol on foods and they are trying to drum up a public outcry that would discourage Democrats from supporting the preemption bill. At a committee hearing last week, the new commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Robert Califf, affirmed FDA's long-standing position that there is no legal justification for mandatory labeling of biotech products, unless they are materially different than the conventional version. In 2014 Colorado voters overwhelmingly voted down a GMO labeling ballot initiative 65-35%. Colorado senator Michael Bennet is on the Senate Agriculture committee and has repeatedly stated his desire to find a workable solution to this issue for Colorado agriculture and Colorado consumers.

#### RESEARCH COMMITTEE-PLANT PATHOLOGIST

The research sub-committee met on March 1<sup>st</sup> to consider research proposals for CPAC funding in 2016. Priority projects for the committee continue to be improved potato varieties, best management practices to grow and manage new potato varieties, potato storage guidelines to minimize storage losses and diseases, and managing potato diseases and pests.

The CPAC committee will continue to fund research on biological nematode control alternatives and is hoping to fund a silver scurf management project this year.

We are working with Colorado State University to locate a plant pathologist to replace Dr. Rob Davidson who has moved to Ft. Collins and is officially retiring on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is proving somewhat challenging because of many internal changes within the C.S.U. leadership system, but we have assurances that C.S.U. is going to fill the plant pathology position as soon as practical.

In the interim, the lack of a local plant pathologist could create some issues for growers with immediate disease problems. C.S.U. is aware of our concerns and is actively developing a temporary solution for the upcoming growing season. Please let me know if you have questions or suggestions about this.

#### ALLIANCE FOR POTATO RESEARCH (A.P.R.E)

Want to help spread the word that potatoes are good for you? Please visit the APRE website at [www.apre.org](http://www.apre.org) to access the latest science-based potato nutrition resources, and why potatoes should be a part of your balanced diet.

#### MEETING CALENDAR:

Mar 16	Ag Day Denver
Mar 17	CPAC Monthly Meeting
Apr 21	CPAC Monthly Meeting

#### FEBRUARY SPUD FACTS

		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Shipments	480 cwt equivalent	2771	2816	2674	2689	3161
Reds	percentage of crop	6.5	5.0	7.0	4.3	2.7
All Russet Varieties	percentage of crop	76.7	71.4	70.5	79.7	84.8
Yellow Varieties	percentage of crop	10.0	14.8	15.3	4.3	8.4
Other Varieties	percentage of crop	6.7	8.8	7.1	6.3	4.1
U.S. No. 1	percentage of crop	63.6	58.1	59.6	62.6	63.3
U.S. No. 2	percentage of crop	4.6	5.9	6.9	7.7	8.9
U.S. Commercial Grade	percentage of crop	13.4	27.9	27.1	21.9	21.7
Seed	percentage of crop	1.1	8.1	6.3	7.8	5.9
Bulk	percentage of crop	40.7	42.1	38.0	36.2	38.8
Total rail shipments		144	148	173	48	19
Total truck shipments (fresh)		2403	2462	2243	2442	2814
Total truck shipments (processing)		224	206	258	200	328
Total shipments for the year to date		17003	16507	16159	17738	18573

#### Average F.O.B. prices for February (Per 50 lb. carton or bale unless noted)

		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Yellows #5 bales		11.5	11.00	11.82	10.52	13.81
All Russets	U.S. #1size A	5.75	4.50	7.50	4.98	12.00
All Russets	U.S. #2	4.50	4.25	6.25	3.75	5.43
Bulk Russets	U.S. Commercial Grade 100 lbs	6.68	6.13	10.50	4.90	10.25