



# PCS NEWS

Colorado Potato Certification Service Newsletter

September 2021

## Summer Inspections

Summer inspections finished up the second week of September. We had three fewer field inspectors this summer. Mike Rodriguez and Mike Creel retired last fall after many years of seasonal service to the potato industry here at the Colorado Potato Certification service, while also maintaining their teaching profession in the San Luis Valley schools. Rodriguez put in 24 years and Creel put in 21 years of field inspections. They were surely missed this year, along with their PVY spotting expertise, but we wish them well and hope they enjoy their retirement! After three full field seasons of training and honing their skills, Jeff Shawcroft and Sarah Noller, were finally elevated to full certified field inspectors for the 2021 season. Friday inspections were a necessity with our smaller staff, but with our returning inspectors, Rick Haslar, Blake Carty, and Lee Ar-chuleta, we were able to get it all done. Michelle Leckler did an amazing job at scheduling and Teresa Almeida and Sarah Hensley kept the disease testing lab running smoothly. This year did have its challenges. The weather does always keep us on our toes! With early summer heat to freak hailstorms, I have learned that potato farmers sure are resilient!

A total of 7,784 acres were entered into certification for the 2021 season. Among those were 1,548 acres on Grower Entry farms. Total acreage was down 720 acres from last year. Rejections and downgrades for PVY were down from last year. There were 25 acres rejected for PVY, 120 acres for blackleg, and 20 acres for variety mix. Only 50 acres were downgraded a field generation for PVY. This year had the fewest number of acres rejected in the summer for mosaic in recent history. We sure hope this trend continues through the post harvest test!

The current 2021 Colorado Seed Directory is currently available online: <http://potatoes.colostate.edu/programs/potato-certification-service/crop-directory/>



Potato field with sunflowers.

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Blue Spruce 4H Club with some PCS volunteers.

## Post Harvest Test

The Post Harvest Test (PHT) bags and tags have all been delivered and we have been steadily receiving samples. We will be going back to Hawaii this year for the winter grow out and hope our travels go smoothly. The deadline for sample submission is Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> for Canela Russets, Reveille Russets, and Rose Finn Apples. All other varieties are due no later than Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The samples will be planted the first week of November and inspections will take place starting the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>. Growers are encouraged to come and see their plots in Hawaii anytime during the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you plan to visit.



PHT Field in Oahu, HI.



Blue Spruce 4H Club collecting potatoes at JDS Farms along with Andrew Houser and Will Hathaway helping out.

# Storage Inspections

As we gear up for storage inspections, please make sure to utilize the storage sheets and bin labels that were sent to you. If you would like an electronic version of the storage sheet to enter your data, please contact Sarah, [sarah.noller@colostate.edu](mailto:sarah.noller@colostate.edu), or Michelle, [micelle.leckler@colostate.edu](mailto:micelle.leckler@colostate.edu), to have one emailed to you.

It is very important that we have the most accurate information. We need the total amounts that were harvested, not just seed for sale or recertification, so please include all of the information for each lot on the storage sheets. This includes the total cwt harvested, the total cwt/acre, and the total cwt for sale or recertification. Make sure to have proper physical separation of all seed lots. Any lots combined in storage will be assigned the higher PHT disease level. We understand how difficult and hectic getting your crop into storage can be and want to make sure we have the correct information in Seed Hub so you can get your crop sold and issue your bulk certificates.

If you have any storage questions or issues, please give Andrew, 719-588-0321, or Sarah, 719-754-3496 ext. 20, a call.



**Clockwise from top left: Hail damage, lot marking example, Sarah N. getting a tractor lesson from Rick, funny potato.**

# Lab News

The lab is gearing up for the winter testing season. Yes, it gets busy in there this time of year! A new rule went into effect last year that allowed growers to kill their crops before they had been in the ground for 90 days or if they were not mature enough to get a good final field reading for possible bacterial ring rot (BRR). The stipulation of this rule is that an additional 400-tuber sample needs to be tested on ELISA and PCR for BRR. In addition to this required testing, any seed lots that are to be sold to Idaho must also have a PCR test for BRR. These tests require coring the potatoes to obtain tissue for testing. Teresa is also getting the lab ready for the Post Harvest Test leaf samples that are sent back from Hawaii to verify visual mosaic symptoms and to test for PVY<sup>NTN</sup> on any lot that has tested positive with a 1-5% PVY reading. The lab continues to test greenhouse crops throughout the year, including growers' clone banks.

We offer testing for other viruses and diseases found in potatoes such as, potato latent virus, potato leafroll virus, potato spindle tuber viroid, tomato spotted wilt virus, bacterial ring rot, *Pectobacterium*, potato mop top virus, tobacco rattle virus, and late blight. To get more information on the diseases we can test for and the costs, please visit our website at <http://potatoes.colostate.edu/programs/potato-certification-service/faqs/>. If there is a test you need, but is not listed, please contact our disease testing specialist, Teresa at [teresa.almeida@colostate.edu](mailto:teresa.almeida@colostate.edu), 719-754-3496.

# Important Dates to Remember

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** is the Post Harvest Test sample deadline for Canela Russets, Reveille Russets, and Rose Finn Apples.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** is the Post Harvest Test sample deadline for all other varieties.



Blue Spruce 4H Club gleaning potatoes for Sky Hi. Photo compliments of JDS Farms.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our seed potato certification services.

**Potato Certification Service  
San Luis Valley Research  
Center**

0249 East Road 9 North  
Center, CO 81125

(719) 754-3496

Andrew Houser, Manager  
[andrew.houser@colostate.edu](mailto:andrew.houser@colostate.edu)

Sarah Noller, Assistant Manager  
[sarah.noller@colostate.edu](mailto:sarah.noller@colostate.edu)

Visit us on the web at  
[potatoes.colostate.edu/potato-certification-service/](http://potatoes.colostate.edu/potato-certification-service/)

Potato Certification Service  
San Luis Valley Research Center  
0249 East Road 9 North  
Center, CO 81125

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