



# INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 13, No 2, April 2009

## Letter From the President

**E**xcerpted from "The Daily Green"  
April 21, 2009

"Potatoes have been on or near the list of the Environmental Working Group's dirty dozen foods { <http://www.thedailygreen.com/healthy-eating/eat-safe/Dirty-Dozen-Foods> } with the most pesticide residue for years. That means, according to a government analysis, that after a typical person buys a typical potato and prepares it in a typical way, it's among the fruits and vegetables most likely to be laced with pesticides. (The government regulates pesticide residue, so any chemical left on food is deemed to pose no health risk; that said, pesticides are designed to kill something – a bug, worm, fungus or weed – and most people don't like the idea of taking each meal with a little drop of poison { <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6lWkiQ9fF8> }.) "The spud is the No. 1 most popular veggie in the U.S. The average American eats 130 pounds of potatoes every year { <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Potatoes> } – that's 44% more than the next veggie on the list, the tomato (also sometimes included on the annual Dirty Dozen { <http://www.thedailygreen.com/healthy-eating/eat-safe/Dirty-Dozen-Foods> } list)."

This pronouncement contains elements that we are used to seeing, a condemnation of potato, this time because of pesticide content. The veracity of such a statement will be elucidated by the fact-checkers in the future. However, MacDonalds has issued a statement that they are going to take steps to reduce the pesticide presence on processed potato that they buy. It also

is the harbinger of a potential breakthrough for research in all areas. They are the largest buyer in the country. Many of us have watched helplessly as new varieties with increased disease and pest resistance fail to capture market share in the face of the standards of the past. Similarly innovations in agronomy, storage physiology and food preparation stand little chance when confronted by the inertia of past practices. Now the biggest buyer of potatoes in the country is opening the door to change. Let's take them up on their challenge and show them with all due speed how they can make substantial gains in sustainability and the reduction of pesticides first and foremost. Let us challenge our policymakers in State legislatures and the Federal House and Senate to give researchers the resources to meet this challenge.

A common piece of misinformation is that potatoes are not good for you. Recent research has shown that potato extracts can slow the growth of prostate cancer cell cultures, and lower the C-reactive protein, a signal of general inflammatory diseases, in human subjects. Potatoes are a good source of vitamin C, potassium, phenolic acids and carotenoids. The primary carotenoids of potato are the same ones that are the principal constituents in the human retina. Potatoes are good for you. Pass it on.

Chuck Brown, PAA  
2008-2009 President

## Meeting Dates

### JUNE

07-09: SNACKEX 2009.  
Berlin, GERMANY. Info:  
<http://www.snackex.com/>

23-25: '09 Intl Potato Proc  
& Stor Conv.  
Charlottetown, PEI, CAN.  
Info: <http://www.potatoconvention.com/index.htm>

### JULY

11-19: Maine Potato  
Blossom Festival.  
Fort Fairfield, ME. Info:  
<http://potatoblossom.org/>

### AUGUST

01-05: APS Annual  
Meeting.  
Portland, OR. Info: <http://meeting.apsnet.org/default.cfm>

03-05: 3rd Natl Plant  
Breeding Workshop.  
Madison, WI. Info: <http://cuke.hort.ncsu.edu/gpb/meetings/pbccmeeting2009.html>

03-07: US Potato Board  
Summer Meeting.  
Bangor, ME. Info: <http://www.uspotatoes.com/820calendar.html>

### SEPTEMBER

8-10: PotatoEurope/  
Cong/Exhibit/FD Demo.  
Emmeloord, NETH. Info:  
<http://www.potato2009.com/>

## Welcome to Fredericton for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America

Preparations are well underway and we look forward to seeing you at the 93rd Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America on August 9-13, 2009 at the Delta Fredericton Hotel in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Along with the traditional oral and poster presentations, exciting workshops, symposia, and tours of New Brunswick agricultural and research facilities are planned. Highlights include: the Sunday afternoon "Application of Genomic Resources to Potato Breeding" workshop; Plant Protection Symposium "Alternative Methods of Pest and Disease Control"; and "International PVY Symposium" on Tuesday afternoon. For more information on tour destinations, workshop and symposia speakers, please visit the conference website <http://www.paa2009.org>. Several tours and exciting activities have also been organized for accompanying persons.

Come and enjoy Maritime specialties and musical entertainment at the barbeque on Wednesday evening. Our chosen barbeque venue offers a private 35-acre nature reserve and is situated along the banks of the Mactaquac head pond on the majestic St. John River.

A silent auction has become a staple event at PAA and one is planned for PAA 2009. All proceeds go to the PAA Endowment Fund. Please remember to bring items to include in the auction, or money to buy yourself a meeting memento and support this worthy cause.

Golfers treat yourself with the golf scramble on August 9<sup>th</sup> at Kingswood Golf Course, the most recognized and rewarded golf course in New Brunswick. Kingswood Golf is just a quick 10 minute drive from the conference headquarters.

We have as full 'pool' for the post conference salmon fly-fishing excursion. Early registration was required for this event. I wish tight lines to all participants.

Conference registration for PAA/EAPR members is \$325 (Cdn) before June 15, 2009 and \$425 (Cdn) after June 15, 2009.

Tours, barbeque and banquet are extra. For pain-free registration, to find accommodations, directions to Fredericton, information about all tours and activities, visit our website <http://www.paa2009.org>. As the date draws near, visit the website often for program and events updates.

International travelers, please make sure you have all the necessary documents that will allow you to enter Canada and that will also ensure you are able to get home again.

To reserve a room at the conference headquarters, Delta Fredericton Hotel, your reservation must be made by July 8, 2009. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Delta Fredericton Hotel for \$149.00 and up (Cdn) per night. Contact the hotel directly at 1-800-268-1133 and mention you are with The Potato Association of America OR register on line through the <http://www.paa2009.org> website accommodations page. Additional rooms have been reserved for us at the Crown Plaza Fredericton Lord Beaverbrook Hotel. Motorized transportation is necessary if you are not staying at the conference headquarters.

Fredericton is the capital city of New Brunswick and is situated on the beautiful Saint John River. Several amazing natural wonders and man-made attractions are located in or a short drive from Fredericton. More information about New Brunswick tourism can be found at <http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca>

Do you have questions? Contact me at [loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca](mailto:loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca) or (506) 392-5199. Please remember I am located in the Atlantic time zone (eastern time plus one hour)

What do we need for a great PAA 2009 meeting? ...YOU! Bring your family and enjoy our Maritime hospitality and beautiful August summer sunshine.

Visit the website regularly for program and activity updates <http://www.paa2009.org>.

Loretta Mikitzel  
PAA 2009 LAC

### Message from the Home Office

Well, folks, it looks like it is finally happening. The 'new' website { <http://potatoassociation.org> } is up and running and Kelly & I are pretty positive we've now got all the bugs out of it. I've got everyone loaded into the membership database that I had current e-mail addresses for. However, I did have about 20 of them come back with wrong errors. I'm hoping those of you who try to sign on and can't will contact me.

Keep in mind that I have recently sent you TWO LOGINS and TWO PASSWORDS...one is for the 'new' website which was computer generated. I assigned the login but the computer did the password. It states on it that it's for the website. The other one is for the Springer website so you'll have access to the Journals.

This message has "DO NOT DELETE..." in the Subject line. This is the only one that will work to sign on to have access to all Journals. Please make sure you are using the correct login in the right box before contacting me that it does not work.

For those of you who have let their membership lapse, you are missing out on all sorts of things [no journal, no online access to journals printed from 1923 forward; no access to the Members Only section on the new website, no discounted registration rates, and I could keep going on but those are some of the biggies. However, the 'pay online' method is active again. Just "follow the instructions" and you'll have no problems. If you

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**ANNOUNCING!!!!!!!**  
**PAA 6TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION**  
**TO BENEFIT THE PAA ENDOWMENT FUND**

Fredericton, New Brunswick  
Tuesday August 11, 2009

Have you been looking around your office or your home for a unique potato item, or any item of curiosity? Have you or your spouse been using your talents to create an item of interest for a truly exciting auction? Do you have a vacation home or condo to share for a week? Have you seen an item that could generate a lot of interest (and money) even though it is not truly "valuable"?

Any of these contributions would be greatly appreciated in support of the mission of PAA and its Endowment Fund! Don't forget, donations are "tax deductible (US)". Not going to the Annual Meeting this year? Though we will miss you, you will be in our thoughts!

You can bring the item(s) with you to Fredericton or forward them, in advance, no later than August 1, 2009 to:

Dilys and Mel Henninger  
2 Amy Drive  
EastWindsor, NJ 08520  
Phone: 609 443-4527 - E-mail: [dhenninger1@verizon.net](mailto:dhenninger1@verizon.net)

For More Information about the Fredericton Meeting August 9-13, 2009 go to: <http://www.paa2009.org>

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**Press Release: Pest Pros Inc/Plainfield, WI**

**Wisconsin Storage Potatoes: Disease Prediction System Validated in Commercial fields.**

Pest Pros Inc, an independent crop consulting and disease diagnostic laboratory operating in central Wisconsin, tested 42 commercial potato fields pre-harvest for storage disease risk in 2008 using a system developed by Dr. Walt Stevenson and Dr. Zahi Atallah, potato disease specialists at the UW-Madison, Dept of Plant Pathology. Pest Pros and Dr. Stevenson's lab have collaborated since 2005 on the project to fast track the systems commercial application.

Tuber samples from each field were tested, using real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) for background loads of soft rot, pink rot and pythium leak inoculum and a storage disease risk assessment made for each field. Fields were indexed from 1 – 5 (very low – high risk) for disease risk and the storage bins monitored and rated from 1 – 5 (very low rot – high rot) for the development of storage rot. The varieties, involved mainly Russet Burbank and chipping varieties. Only non-symptomatic tubers were tested for disease potential.

A comparison of the "Storage Potato Disease Risk Index" to the storage rot out-come as of mid March shows that 74% of the forecasted disease predictions were either in complete agreement or very close to the final disease outcome in storage. None of the indexes produced false negatives where the test predicted low disease risk with subsequent moderate to heavy rot in storage. False positives occurred in 26% of the fields where slightly less rot developed than was predicted. The ultimate goal is to provide a means for growers to segregate their "risky" potatoes from their "healthy" potatoes, by variety in storage, and manage the "healthy" potatoes for quality in long term storage.

For more information contact: Randy Van Haren, Pest Pros Inc, PO Box 188, Plainfield, WI 54966, [pestpros@uniontel.net](mailto:pestpros@uniontel.net), 715-335-4046, <http://www.pestprosinc.com> [3/11/09]

2008-09

## PAA Background

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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#### 93RD ANNUAL MEETING:

August 9-13, 2009  
Fredericton, New  
Brunswick, Canada

PAA Insider published quarterly-Jan, Apr, Oct, Dec. Lori Wing, Editor, Potato Assn of America, 5719 Crossland Hall, Rm 220, UMaine, Orono, ME, 04469-5719 USA. Ph: 207-581-3042; Fax: 207-581-3015; Email: umpotato@maine.edu

## Members in the News

It is with sadness that we have to mourn the passing of two long-time members of the PAA, as well as Honorary Life Members.

HLM Dr. James R. Davis, (79) Retired Univ of ID Plant Path, died 03/06/2009 at Harms Memorial Hospital, American Falls, ID.

Jim was born in Nebraska in 1929. He earned a B.A. in microbiology & chemistry at UC Riverside (1956) and M.S. and Ph.D. in plant pathology (1967). In 1968 he accepted a position as asst. prof. at Univ. Idaho's Aberdeen REC. This began a life-long attack on soil-borne diseases of the potato.

Jim took an integrated approach to problems of disease control and was ever-sensitive to the interplay of irrigation, fertility mgmt, crop rotation and pathogen population. The control strategies he proposed for Verticillium, scab and Rhizoctonia have proven practical and cost-effective. Jim's expertise caused him to travel widely. No matter where he went, there were always stories he brought home with him that you had the choice to believe or not. Jim's tact and diplomatic style were legendary. None of us will forget his hand shooting up to ask a question of a speaker, sitting on the edge of his chair at so many events...his enthusiasm was exemplary, despite the worried or sometimes annoyed response by the speaker. Those of us who loved Jim recognize in this trait the forthright honesty of a dogged dedication to the truth, without which our science would go astray.

Message from the Home Front

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can't remember your login & password, go to the "Members Only" section, click on "Lost Password or Login" fill in your e-mail address and it will be sent to you.

There are two boxes for address information. The second one is for CC information and must be entered "EXACTLY" as it is written on your CC or you will get an error. No one else will see the information except you. Once you pay, you will not know it went through until I send you confirmation. Please let me know you did submit your payment though so I can be watching for it.

Because of his many outstanding contributions and dedication to the potato industry, Jim was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 1993.

Joe Pavek

HLM Kenneth G. Proudfoot, retired research scientist at AAFC's Atlantic Cool Climate Crop Res Ctr in St. John's, Newfoundland, passed away 04/03/2009.

Ken completed a post-graduate degree in Agric at Queen's Univ, Belfast, Ireland. In 1956, he began work as a potato breeder and stayed with it for over 40 yrs.

In 1961 he was awarded a Sr Res Fellowship from the W.K. Kellogg Fnd to work in the U.S. and Canada, and a Rockefeller Fnd grant to conduct potato research in Mexico. He served on scores of provincial, natl and intl committees, both as a professional and as an active member of his community. He often lectured at Memorial Univ and was a guest on numerous gardening radio shows.

During his career Ken bred, developed and registered nine varieties of wart resistant potatoes. Some of those varieties were also resistant to the golden nematode, a pest prevalent in Newfoundland. He was fondly referred to in the industry as the "one man breeding program."

Ken was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 1999.

Loretta Mikitzel

Also, if you go in and make any address/phone/e-mail changes, make sure you let me know because I will not be notified of any changes. This may cause problems from delivery of your journals to receiving e-mails outlining important things going on with the PAA or your membership.

There is still a lot of information that I need to transfer over from the current website so please do not write and say something isn't current, it will be as soon as I get a chance to move it. By the Annual Meeting, the new website will be the only source of information for the PAA.

Thanks for your patience as the final transformation takes place.

Lori Wing-Mbrship Secretary/AA/Web Mgr