

## DAVID H. LAMBERT (2012)



Dr. David Howell Lambert has roots in Pennsylvania where he received both his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from The Pennsylvania State University. In 1986, David joined the University of Maine, since 1992 he has been an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology. When David joined the University of Maine some of his initial work focused on potato scab, which yielded substantial scientific findings. In 1989 David identified and named a new bacterial species of *Streptomyces* calling it acidiscabies, known as acid scab. In the 1990's David was the lead for much of the identification, classification, and taxonomy work on potato scab. David played a key role in developing control measures for the disease with trials that demonstrated the relationship between calcium and common scab. The significance of David's potato scab work speaks for itself in that it has been cited in excess of 300 times.

In the early 1990's, as new A2 strains of the late blight organism became prevalent in North America, David played an instrumental role in developing new control strategies. David pioneered the work demonstrating seed management and the transmission of late blight. Also in the early 1990's David began to focus a portion of his research program on pink rot, which was becoming of greater economic importance to growers. In 1994 David published the first report of metalaxyl-resistant pink rot occurring in North America. While David's appointment at the University of Maine is research based, he is very involved and well respected for his "hands-on" extension-based activities as well. Maine potato growers know David well as he is known to make many farm visits to discuss disease concerns and control strategies with growers. David has a way of making growers feel at ease and confident in his sound advice. One highly successful Maine seed grower is quoted as saying, "Dr. Lambert is quick and thorough in his diagnosis and when he gives us a prognosis, you can literally bet the farm on it."

David is well known for his collaborative nature, working closely with research, extension and industry personnel as a team player on projects too numerous to mention. He has always worked quietly behind the scenes to provide sound pathology research needed to move our industry forward. David's dedication and devotion to his work is admirable. His work ethic is unbelievable, he can be found in his office, field, or lab 7 days a week and at all hours.

David has been an active member of the PAA, attending many annual meetings. When the PAA annual meeting was held in Maine in 1995 David a key organizer of the gathering. David held the office of treasurer for the organization from 1998 to 2001. David's tireless public service efforts have not gone unnoticed by others. In 1995 he was recognized by the Maine Potato Board with the President's Public Service Award for his efforts in helping the industry manage late blight. Then in 2005 David's service efforts were recognized when he was the sole recipient of the prestigious University of Maine Presidential Public Service Award.

David and his wife Sue, a cell biologist, reside in Orono. They have two grown children, Christine and Griffith. David has announced plans for a phased retirement starting in the fall of 2012. David's retirement will leave a void in the Maine Potato industry and beyond. It will only be in David's absence that we will realize the full extent of all of the potato pathology contributions that he has made in the last 25 years.

~Erica Fitzpatrick Peabody and Greg Porter