

PAA 2012 Survey – Annual Meeting Format

Summary by Leigh Morrow

Responses: 152

Detail results are available at <http://potatoassociation.org/>

1. In terms of days, do you feel the length (4.5 days) of the traditional Annual Meeting (Sunday – Thursday) is: 0% too short, 42.8% just right, **57.2% too long**.
2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting? Responses: 117. **66.7% would prefer 3.5 days or less** (51.3% based on 152). 27.4% prefer 4-5 days.
3. How likely are you to attend an Annual Meeting during two of the next five years? **73% are very likely to attend an annual meeting** in two of the next five years.
4. Would you prefer traveling to and from the Annual Meeting during business days only, e.g. Monday-Friday, to avoid travel during a weekend? **45.7% say it does not matter**, 40.4% would prefer to avoid the weekend, and 13.9% do not prefer to avoid the weekend.
5. Would you prefer the LAC schedule tours only before or after the Annual Meeting instead of during the middle of the Annual Meeting as an option to shorten the number of days? **63.6% would like the Ag Tour scheduled before or after the meeting**, 22.5% say it does not matter.
6. Rate the factors potentially restricting your attendance at the Annual Meeting:
Primary reasons: travel cost (55.9%) and meeting too long (55.3%).
Other reasons by rank were:
 - 46.7%, time of year
 - 43.7%, hotel cost
 - 36.4%, other e.g. financial, work schedule conflicts
 - 33.5%, conflict with other meetings
 - 29.3%, registration cost
 - 15.2%, subject matter
7. Rate your preferred time of year for the Annual Meeting.
The overwhelming preference was for Jul-August (56.3%). Only 20.4% did not prefer this time period, while other time blocks ranged from 53.1%– 71.4% as “do not prefer”.
8. Rate your preference for the type of location: Based on 150 responding the leading location preference was **Urban (City) 42.0% preferred** and 8.7% do not prefer. Others were neutral (71/150) or did not vote on this location (3/150).
Other locations by rank were:
 - 28.7% prefer Resort, 23.3% do not prefer
 - 16.7% prefer Airport hub, 36.0% do not prefer
 - 14.7% prefer Rural (country), 22.0% do not prefer
 - 9.3% prefer Suburban, 19.3% do not prefer.
 - Other preference comments (25/150) included accessibility to location, good facilities, university site, and walking to restaurants. One suggestion was to schedule with the Potato Expo.

9. Please rate the importance of the following activities: Results by rank were....

Somewhat + Very Important:	
98.7% Paper presentations	65.6% Social activities
95.4% Networking	64.7% Awards banquet
92.6% General session	60.0% Ag tour
90.7% Symposium	56.0% Assn. Business meeting
88.1% Poster session	52.4% Endowment auction
84.5% Section meetings	50.0% Resident's reception



10. What is the future status of your institution's financial support to national meetings such as the PAA Annual Meeting? **56.5% see their travel funds as stable for the next three years**; 42.9% foresee declining funds.

11. What are your plans for attending the 2013 PAA Annual Meeting in Quebec City? **74.8% are planning to attend** the Quebec meeting, although 39.7% claim plans are tentative and 35.1% are certain.

12. Do you have other comments on how to improve the Annual Meeting to encourage attendance? There were 44 comments to this question, although many were repetitive with the responses to the previous survey questions. Additional information gleaned from the comments is:

- Consider holding the meeting every 2 or 3 years.
- Advertise the section meetings and meal arrangements better to new members.
- Plan sessions appealing to growers.
- Consider trade show booths.
- Continue to plan spouse activities.
- Consider meeting with the EAPR, or as a satellite meeting of the ASHS.
- Plan networking activity for younger members.




1. In terms of days, do you feel the length (4.5 days) of the traditional Annual Meeting (Sunday – Thursday) is:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Too short		0.0%	0
Just right		42.8%	65
Too long		57.2%	87
answered question			152
skipped question			0




2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting?

	Response Count
	117
answered question	117
skipped question	35




3. How likely are you to attend an Annual Meeting during two of the next five years?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not likely		2.6%	4
Maybe		24.3%	37
Very likely		73.0%	111
answered question			152
skipped question			0

4. Would you prefer traveling to and from the Annual Meeting during business days only, e.g. Monday-Friday, to avoid travel during a weekend?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		40.4%	61
No		13.9%	21
Does not matter		45.7%	69
answered question			151
skipped question			1

5. Would you prefer the LAC schedule tours only before or after the Annual Meeting instead of during the middle of the Annual Meeting as an option to shorten the number of days?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		63.6%	96
No		13.9%	21
Does not matter		22.5%	34
answered question			151
skipped question			1

6. Rate the factors potentially restricting your attendance at the Annual Meeting:

	Very Restrictive (Negative)	Somewhat Restrictive	Neutral (No effect)	Positive	Rating Average	Response Count
Time of year (Jul/Aug)	11.2% (17)	35.5% (54)	36.8% (56)	16.4% (25)	2.59	152
Travel cost	11.2% (17)	44.7% (68)	42.8% (65)	1.3% (2)	2.34	152
Registration cost	4.0% (6)	25.3% (38)	67.3% (101)	3.3% (5)	2.70	150
Hotel cost	6.0% (9)	37.7% (57)	54.3% (82)	2.0% (3)	2.52	151
Meeting length too long	13.3% (20)	42.0% (63)	38.0% (57)	6.7% (10)	2.38	150
Subject matter	4.6% (7)	10.6% (16)	29.1% (44)	55.6% (84)	3.36	151
Conflict with other meetings	8.7% (13)	24.8% (37)	56.4% (84)	10.1% (15)	2.68	149
Other	27.3% (9)	9.1% (3)	54.5% (18)	9.1% (3)	2.45	33
				Other (please specify)		25
				answered question		152
				skipped question		0

7. Rate your preferred time of year for the Annual Meeting.

	Do not prefer	Neutral	Prefer	Rating Average	Response Count
January-February	57.3% (71)	26.6% (33)	16.1% (20)	1.59	124
March-April	53.1% (68)	30.5% (39)	16.4% (21)	1.63	128
May-June	53.5% (68)	22.8% (29)	23.6% (30)	1.70	127
July-August	20.4% (29)	23.2% (33)	56.3% (80)	2.36	142
September-October	71.4% (90)	16.7% (21)	11.9% (15)	1.40	126
November-December	55.1% (70)	26.8% (34)	18.1% (23)	1.63	127
answered question					151
skipped question					1




8. Rate your preference for the type of location:

	Do not prefer	Neutral	Prefer	Rating Average	Response Count
Rural (Country)	24.3% (33)	59.6% (81)	16.2% (22)	1.92	136
Suburban	21.2% (29)	68.6% (94)	10.2% (14)	1.89	137
Urban (City)	8.8% (13)	48.3% (71)	42.9% (63)	2.34	147
Resort	24.8% (35)	44.7% (63)	30.5% (43)	2.06	141
Airport Hub Conference Center	39.4% (54)	42.3% (58)	18.2% (25)	1.79	137
Other	8.0% (2)	68.0% (17)	24.0% (6)	2.16	25
Other (please specify)					14
answered question					150
skipped question					2


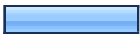


9. Please rate the importance of the following activities:

	Not important	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Rating Average	Response Count
President's reception	12.0% (18)	38.0% (57)	32.7% (49)	17.3% (26)	2.55	150
Symposium	0.0% (0)	9.3% (14)	29.1% (44)	61.6% (93)	3.52	151
General session	0.0% (0)	7.3% (11)	23.3% (35)	69.3% (104)	3.62	150
Paper presentations	0.0% (0)	1.3% (2)	19.9% (30)	78.8% (119)	3.77	151
Poster session	3.3% (5)	8.6% (13)	36.8% (56)	51.3% (78)	3.36	152
Section meetings	2.7% (4)	12.8% (19)	45.6% (68)	38.9% (58)	3.21	149
Assn. Business meeting	8.1% (12)	35.8% (53)	32.4% (48)	23.6% (35)	2.72	148
Ag tour	10.0% (15)	30.0% (45)	38.0% (57)	22.0% (33)	2.72	150
Awards banquet	9.3% (14)	26.0% (39)	40.7% (61)	24.0% (36)	2.79	150
Social activities	5.3% (8)	29.1% (44)	40.4% (61)	25.2% (38)	2.85	151
Endowment auction	8.1% (12)	39.6% (59)	39.6% (59)	12.8% (19)	2.57	149
Networking	0.7% (1)	4.0% (6)	22.7% (34)	72.7% (109)	3.67	150
Other	11.1% (2)	77.8% (14)	0.0% (0)	11.1% (2)	2.11	18
				Other (please specify)		6
					answered question	152
					skipped question	0

10. What is the future status of your institution's financial support to national meetings such as the PAA Annual Meeting?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Improving, travel funds may be easier to acquire.		0.7%	1
Stable, I see no change in travel funds status over the next three years.		56.5%	83
Declining, travel funds are becoming more restrictive.		42.9%	63
		answered question	147
		skipped question	5

11. What are your plans for attending the 2013 PAA Annual Meeting in Quebec City?

		Response Percent	Response Count
I cannot attend		5.3%	8
My attendance is tentative, unlikely		19.9%	30
My attendance is tentative, but likely		39.7%	60
I will attend		35.1%	53
		answered question	151
		skipped question	1

12. Do you have other comments on how to improve the Annual Meeting to encourage attendance?

**Response
Count**

44

answered question

44

skipped question

108

Q2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting?

1	4-5	Nov 15, 2012 10:09 AM
2	3	Nov 15, 2012 7:19 AM
3	4.5	Nov 14, 2012 8:34 PM
4	3 days	Nov 12, 2012 12:42 AM
5	3 to 3.5	Nov 11, 2012 3:45 PM
6	5	Nov 10, 2012 6:26 AM
7	3 days	Nov 9, 2012 6:26 PM
8	3-4	Nov 9, 2012 2:03 PM
9	3	Nov 9, 2012 11:59 AM
10	Three days	Nov 9, 2012 11:19 AM
11	3	Nov 9, 2012 11:04 AM
12	3	Nov 9, 2012 10:40 AM
13	3	Nov 9, 2012 10:30 AM
14	3	Nov 9, 2012 10:19 AM
15	Three	Nov 9, 2012 9:54 AM
16	3 days?	Nov 8, 2012 7:12 PM
17	3	Nov 6, 2012 2:21 AM
18	4.5	Nov 5, 2012 1:00 PM
19	4	Nov 5, 2012 11:32 AM
20	3 days	Nov 5, 2012 9:08 AM
21	3	Nov 5, 2012 7:07 AM
22	4.5	Nov 4, 2012 7:28 PM
23	2	Nov 4, 2012 10:09 AM
24	3	Nov 2, 2012 10:53 PM
25	3	Nov 2, 2012 7:18 PM
26	3.5	Nov 2, 2012 4:19 PM
27	3.5	Nov 2, 2012 12:59 PM

Q2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting?

28	3	Nov 2, 2012 12:56 PM
29	3.5	Nov 2, 2012 12:50 PM
30	3	Nov 2, 2012 12:47 PM
31	3	Nov 2, 2012 12:31 PM
32	4.5 days for the Meeting, one day for a touristic tour	Nov 2, 2012 12:30 PM
33	3 DAYS	Nov 2, 2012 12:17 PM
34	3	Nov 2, 2012 12:06 PM
35	3.5	Oct 29, 2012 1:06 PM
36	2.5-3	Oct 29, 2012 8:11 AM
37	3	Oct 29, 2012 6:02 AM
38	3.5	Oct 27, 2012 11:00 AM
39	three	Oct 26, 2012 9:12 AM
40	4.5	Oct 26, 2012 8:02 AM
41	4	Oct 25, 2012 12:56 PM
42	Length now is fine.	Oct 24, 2012 5:03 PM
43	3	Oct 24, 2012 8:06 AM
44	4 to 5	Oct 24, 2012 5:50 AM
45	4	Oct 24, 2012 5:30 AM
46	3.5	Oct 23, 2012 9:18 AM
47	3 to 3.5	Oct 23, 2012 9:05 AM
48	3	Oct 23, 2012 7:50 AM
49	5 days	Oct 23, 2012 6:58 AM
50	Although I think 4.5 days is okay, hotel cost is generally about \$150 per night or more, so shortening by one day would save that cost. You could run 3 concurrent sessions at one time to accommodate all the presentations, thus being able to shorten the meeting by one day.	Oct 23, 2012 6:44 AM
51	3	Oct 23, 2012 6:24 AM
52	4.5	Oct 23, 2012 6:09 AM
53	4	Oct 23, 2012 3:18 AM

Q2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting?

54	I'm fine with it as is	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 PM
55	4	Oct 22, 2012 8:37 PM
56	3	Oct 22, 2012 3:56 PM
57	3	Oct 22, 2012 3:23 PM
58	3	Oct 22, 2012 3:12 PM
59	4.5	Oct 22, 2012 2:57 PM
60	3	Oct 22, 2012 2:16 PM
61	2	Oct 22, 2012 1:52 PM
62	3-4	Oct 22, 2012 1:44 PM
63	5	Oct 22, 2012 1:39 PM
64	As it is now.	Oct 22, 2012 12:53 PM
65	3	Oct 22, 2012 12:46 PM
66	3.5	Oct 22, 2012 12:30 PM
67	4,5 days are ok.	Oct 22, 2012 12:16 PM
68	3	Oct 22, 2012 12:03 PM
69	as presently done	Oct 22, 2012 11:37 AM
70	2-3 days	Oct 22, 2012 11:26 AM
71	3.5	Oct 22, 2012 11:12 AM
72	Current number of days is fine	Oct 22, 2012 10:50 AM
73	3.5	Oct 22, 2012 10:41 AM
74	3 days sun night - wed night	Oct 22, 2012 10:21 AM
75	3	Oct 22, 2012 10:02 AM
76	3	Oct 22, 2012 9:53 AM
77	as is	Oct 22, 2012 9:52 AM
78	4	Oct 22, 2012 9:51 AM
79	3	Oct 22, 2012 9:43 AM
80	3	Oct 22, 2012 9:41 AM

Q2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting?

81	3.5	Oct 22, 2012 9:34 AM
82	3.5 days	Oct 22, 2012 9:34 AM
83	4-5	Oct 22, 2012 9:29 AM
84	3 or less	Oct 22, 2012 9:25 AM
85	3 days	Oct 22, 2012 9:22 AM
86	2.5	Oct 22, 2012 9:22 AM
87	3 plus Sunday	Oct 22, 2012 9:16 AM
88	2	Oct 22, 2012 9:10 AM
89	3 - 3.5	Oct 22, 2012 9:07 AM
90	4	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 AM
91	4.5	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 AM
92	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:58 AM
93	Four and half days	Oct 22, 2012 8:55 AM
94	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:51 AM
95	3 days	Oct 22, 2012 8:47 AM
96	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:47 AM
97	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:46 AM
98	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:45 AM
99	Keep the same 4.5 days	Oct 22, 2012 8:42 AM
100	3 days	Oct 22, 2012 8:35 AM
101	4	Oct 22, 2012 8:28 AM
102	3.5	Oct 22, 2012 8:22 AM
103	4.5	Oct 22, 2012 8:21 AM
104	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:21 AM
105	NC	Oct 22, 2012 8:21 AM
106	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:18 AM
107	4	Oct 22, 2012 8:17 AM

Q2. How many days would you prefer for the length of the Annual Meeting?

108	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:15 AM
109	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:13 AM
110	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:12 AM
111	2	Oct 22, 2012 8:12 AM
112	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:11 AM
113	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:09 AM
114	3	Oct 22, 2012 8:08 AM
115	3 days	Oct 22, 2012 8:07 AM
116	4	Oct 22, 2012 8:06 AM
117	3.5	Oct 18, 2012 10:14 AM

Q6. Rate the factors potentially restricting your attendance at the Annual Meeting:

1	location	Nov 15, 2012 7:19 AM
2	Schedule the meeting with the EXPO and your attendance will grow a lot	Nov 9, 2012 11:59 AM
3	ARS budget constraints, limiting our ability to travel	Nov 8, 2012 1:45 PM
4	targeted symposia that are published	Nov 5, 2012 9:08 AM
5	length of position	Nov 5, 2012 8:42 AM
6	Others at my company want to go to the PAA and we only send a certain number each year. It might not be my turn.	Nov 5, 2012 7:40 AM
7	budget restraints; more than one potential participant from the same institution	Nov 5, 2012 7:07 AM
8	July/ August can be very busy times for field research so I am not able to attend the entire conference. I do understand that farm visits are frequently part of the program and would not be as informative if done in March or November.	Nov 5, 2012 6:35 AM
9	conflict with harvest season in the south	Nov 4, 2012 7:28 PM
10	Harvest of other research projects - many of us conduct research beyond potatoes. Early potato harvest begins in August	Nov 4, 2012 10:09 AM
11	Conflicting with European Potato Meetings . Perhaps North America and European happening every other year	Nov 3, 2012 10:47 PM
12	What if we met every other year?	Oct 24, 2012 5:30 AM
13	cost of oversee flights	Oct 23, 2012 10:26 AM
14	Other time demands	Oct 22, 2012 3:23 PM
15	Reduction in federal support for travel.	Oct 22, 2012 12:30 PM
16	Employer's internal restrictions on travel	Oct 22, 2012 11:37 AM
17	I am an entomologist. There are a handful of entomologist attending, not sure why.	Oct 22, 2012 10:02 AM
18	Ease of getting to locations (eg. NE Canada is hard to get to, rural areas that require rental cars, etc)	Oct 22, 2012 9:43 AM
19	Total time and financial commitment of meeting is large.	Oct 22, 2012 9:41 AM
20	Busy time of year for anyone involved actively in the production agriculture end. Industry involvement suffers because of this.	Oct 22, 2012 9:25 AM
21	Approval for funding from my institution	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 AM
22	Meeting always during our busiest field inspection season, thus can't attend.	Oct 22, 2012 8:26 AM
23	na	Oct 22, 2012 8:21 AM
24	Conflict with American Phytopathological Soc.	Oct 22, 2012 8:07 AM

Q6. Rate the factors potentially restricting your attendance at the Annual Meeting:

25 Cannot be held during peak periods, e.i. potato planting and harvesting.

Oct 18, 2012 10:14 AM

Q8. Rate your preference for the type of location:

1	You need to have facilities	Nov 9, 2012 6:26 PM
2	Connect with the rest of the Potato Industry at the EXPO. Much better use of time and connections	Nov 9, 2012 11:59 AM
3	A site that has ammenities that one can walk to easily is preferred. The Wilmington meetings were nearly ideal in this respect. The meeting in Denver was very bad in this respect.	Nov 8, 2012 7:12 PM
4	Theme Park	Nov 2, 2012 12:50 PM
5	university campus	Nov 2, 2012 12:30 PM
6	stay away from hard to reach locations. Keep centrally located in US/Can for best attendance	Oct 29, 2012 8:11 AM
7	have enjoyed university locations	Oct 26, 2012 9:12 AM
8	easy airport access (minimize connections) and hotels that have choices of places to eat within walking distance	Oct 24, 2012 5:30 AM
9	a reputable conference center not necessarily associated with an airport hub	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 PM
10	Locations fairly easy to get to, with multiple eating facilities close by. Resort in Florida years ago was bad, we were stranded without a rental car.	Oct 22, 2012 9:43 AM
11	Prefer easy access to airport	Oct 22, 2012 9:41 AM
12	Prefer to be associated with a growing area and not away for center of agriculture (potatoes)	Oct 22, 2012 9:25 AM
13	college campus	Oct 22, 2012 9:07 AM
14	Must be close to a variety of restaurants within walking distance.	Oct 22, 2012 8:45 AM

Q9. Please rate the importance of the following activities:

1	BBQ	Nov 5, 2012 9:08 AM
2	BBQ / picnic	Nov 2, 2012 12:59 PM
3	Not sure what you mean by "general session."	Oct 23, 2012 6:44 AM
4	meals (especially breakfast & lunches) planned as part of the meeting schedule/arrangements	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 PM
5	Adequate time and functions to get to know new folks and exchange ideas, but not necessarily one whole day of tours to do this	Oct 22, 2012 9:43 AM
6	Overall organization needs to be thoroughly evaluated and redefined to meet the changing needs and environment that we are facing. What has worked in the past years is not sufficient in today's environment.	Oct 22, 2012 9:25 AM

Q12. Do you have other comments on how to improve the Annual Meeting to encourage attendance?

1	Find Conference centers that are on the high end of expensive. We don't need the glitz. Social times are very important. After two days of technical meetings everyone gets a bit dull.	Nov 11, 2012 3:45 PM
2	I plan to teach a painting workshop prior to the meetings.	Nov 9, 2012 1:26 PM
3	If you bring the meeting into the EXPO it will grow and the interactions with the industry will be provide great benefits to all. Grants are harder and harder to secure, this will be one way to open new doors for funding oppertunities. Times have changed, the industry has changed, PAA needs to change.	Nov 9, 2012 11:59 AM
4	consider every other year (or every third year, like the European Potato Association). Although this would be a loss of collaboration opportunities, it would make attendance at both PAA and another professional meeting (alternating years) more realistic.	Nov 8, 2012 1:45 PM
5	Denver PAA meeting was very enjoyable - great city, but location was a bit too distant from the town; excellent hotel but there was another Crown Plaza downtown Denver Registration costs very high, social event costs very high - try to lower these Advertize the networking breakfast and lunch better (I only found out half way through the Denver meetings that these meals were provided) Help with networking activities ie colored tags for different disciplines - try to promote different tag events (sit with fellow breeders, sit with anyone except fellow breeders, if you are single, sit here etc.)	Nov 5, 2012 11:32 AM
6	Excellent meeting on content but too long. I think that the tour day and the BBQ take too much time and could be dropped. Anything that could be done to encourage grower participation would be a plus. Perhaps devoting a half day after the symposium that addresses grower concerns directly would help. My preference would be: Travel Sunday. Social events, networking (golf, Presidents reception) Meet Mon: (am Symposium, pm grower concerns, evening posters) Meet Tues (general sessions with student competition and sections breakouts), evening Awards Banquet Meet Wed (am section breakouts), Business meeting Wed pm. Travel pm.	Nov 5, 2012 9:08 AM
7	The are more meetings of interest that compete for travel budget dollars; it may be difficult to do but a recurring annual date for the meetings might help. I think the meeting is too long and when it's held in hard to get to places it adds to the time and cost of attending. The agricultural tours are an interesting way to learn about regional production but might be better before or after the scientific meeting.	Nov 5, 2012 7:07 AM
8	In addition to this survey, direct an e-mail or perhaps phone call directly to members who rarely attend the conference but are still actively publishing, conducting research, or involved directly in industry and ask them what factors prevent their attendance. This may give you better insight into how much time of year, cost, etc. have had on people who decide not to attend, whereas average survey respondents may indicate things that are discouraging, but do not actually affect attendance.	Nov 5, 2012 6:35 AM
9	Have at a site where there are things to do within walking distance - e.g., Willmington, NC - also that encourage family attendance. Two days of meetings without some type of break (tours, etc) is max. I really don't have any problems	Nov 4, 2012 7:28 PM

Q12. Do you have other comments on how to improve the Annual Meeting to encourage attendance?

	with the current format. July/August is in the middle of harvest for me, but I go anyway. I would prefer June.	
10	Join PAA meetings with the Potato Expo. This combination would bring science and practice together. I think by joining these two major North America Potato events, more producers and potato related people would attend the scientific PAA sections and contribute to improve or redirect research to potato business. Endowments would be more generous, mainly to support students (not only grad but also undegrade seniors).	Nov 3, 2012 10:47 PM
11	This meeting competes directly with the APS meeting and other summer meetings that are also directly related to my research. I prefer to attend PAA when it is not in an expensive location (travel funds are tight!) and especially when PAA has a joint meeting with another society.	Nov 2, 2012 10:53 PM
12	Perhaps involving industry with product booths and services. Meeting has the friendliest atmosphere of any scientific meeting attended.	Nov 2, 2012 7:18 PM
13	Schedule meetings in resort areas (e.g. FL, Hawaii, CA, Mexico) and/or areas with large cities (NY, Chicago, Vancouver, Toronto, etc.) with many attractions so delegates can choose to extend their travel times for leisure at the beginning or end of the conference.	Nov 2, 2012 4:19 PM
14	keep people busy: Mon - reception / arrival Tue - section meetings Wed - BBQ Thu - banquet Fri - Ag tour option / departure	Nov 2, 2012 12:59 PM
15	workshops with the local potato growers and industry well organized Ag tour during the Meeting a well organized one-day touristic tour on the fifth day	Nov 2, 2012 12:30 PM
16	My personal opinion is that the pool of people from which to draw is shrinking and those of us left have responsibilities for crops other than potatoes. The PAA may not be able to continue to populate sections, etc. without over-taxing the people still focused on potato research. Perhaps sections can be consolidated or the structure of sections may need to be less formal.	Oct 29, 2012 1:06 PM
17	Shorten the meeting, put the tour at the end of the meeting, have awards presentation after 1st full day.	Oct 29, 2012 8:11 AM
18	1. Move awards banquet earlier in the week and more will attend. 2. Shorten the overall length of the meeting. 3. Keep at least some spousal activities (CO did a great job).	Oct 26, 2012 9:12 AM
19	Keep hotel costs and registration fees as low as possible. Hold the meeting at an easily accessible site. The meeting site this year was perfect - Denver is a hub and most people can get there in a single flight of a few hours or less. The hotel was near the airport, so travel time was kept to a minimum.	Oct 24, 2012 8:06 AM
20	Is there any plan to hold a join meeting with EAPR?	Oct 23, 2012 6:58 AM
21	Cost is a large concern for this meeting. Beside shortening by one day (discussed in #2 above), the barbecue could be changed to be less expensive. This could be done by deleting the barbecue and making the night more like the president's reception. After all, networking is an important part of this meeting, so	Oct 23, 2012 6:44 AM

Q12. Do you have other comments on how to improve the Annual Meeting to encourage attendance?

this would accomplish this. So, here would be a possible schedule: Monday - travel and opening session (old barbecue with auction) in the evening Tuesday - morning symposium with three concurrent sessions in the afternoon (maybe the symposium could be just two hours followed by concurrent sessions for the second half of the morning) Wednesday - Ag tour including a light meal in the evening as part of the tour Thursday - concurrent sessions in the morning; business meeting in the afternoon; banquet Friday - travel Savings: one night hotel \$150 or more, barbecue for \$40

22	Any effort by the LAC to keep registration costs as low as possible and still provide for the necessities (such as breakfast and lunches) should be the primary concern	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 PM
23	No	Oct 22, 2012 3:23 PM
24	I can say that many faculty and students in plant pathology departments are often conflicted with attending the annual meetings of PAA as well as APS (American Phytopathological Society), as they are within days of each other. For this reason, I end up choosing one of them per year (I alternate between the two). I can't speak for other students, but I know that there is a travel consideration for many of them due to the two annual meetings often overlapping or coinciding.	Oct 22, 2012 1:44 PM
25	It might be helpful to have the PAA meeting coincide with ASHS as a satellite meeting.	Oct 22, 2012 12:53 PM
26	Please look for locations that won't imply more than one flight. Say, large cities (Denver, Atlanta, Quebec, New York, Dallas, Washington D.C., L.A., etc.).	Oct 22, 2012 12:16 PM
27	Could there be a gathering for younger people attending the meetings that are hoping to meet new people that are also early in their career? It may be like an informal meet and greet, where everyone could share where they are from, what they are working on, exchange business cards, etc. It may better facilitate the next generation of PAA meeting goers in making connections and networking.	Oct 22, 2012 11:26 AM
28	Holding the meeting mid-growing season is an impediment to attendance by important industry consultants, crop advisors, etc. Late fall may be best to attract such people to both the meeting and to be members of PAA.	Oct 22, 2012 10:41 AM
29	Do more to encourage /support graduate students present papers and attend. It is already a priority, but I believe more can be done.	Oct 22, 2012 10:18 AM
30	Make it more appealing to other branches besides plant breeders or molecular people. Not sure how. Make it international. Canada is a good start. Mexico is around the corner. Make a joint meeting with the American association (Marco Ugarte?).	Oct 22, 2012 10:02 AM
31	No.	Oct 22, 2012 9:52 AM
32	I work in the private sector, and having the meeting during July or August makes it very difficult for me to attend. I would prefer a different time. That is the biggest problem for me.	Oct 22, 2012 9:51 AM

Q12. Do you have other comments on how to improve the Annual Meeting to encourage attendance?

33	Avoid location extremes and hard to get to places. Focus on main routes for air travel. However, the location also needs to fit the requirements with multiple eating outlets within walking distance and relative ease to and from airport.	Oct 22, 2012 9:43 AM
34	To facilitate participation of over seas scientists	Oct 22, 2012 9:29 AM
35	Focus on timing aspect. Possible pairing up with other areas meetings (winter). Potato Expo? Choosing locations that are away from the industry's focus to hold meetings is a detriment. A reorganization of the meetings is needed to revitalize membership. I am starting to feel that the section meetings are becoming self defeating and not adding any value.	Oct 22, 2012 9:25 AM
36	Location in urban areas or resorts may attract more attendance. It may be useful to partner with another conference from time to time to expose the PAA to others with similar interests, for example the Potato Expo.	Oct 22, 2012 9:01 AM
37	The meetings must be shortened. For those that work directly with the industry on production and management, the current format of the meeting is too long to be away during the growing season.	Oct 22, 2012 8:46 AM
38	I would like to see us go to an every other year meeting because of travel costs.	Oct 22, 2012 8:21 AM
39	Believe the PAA meetings have always provided a nice balance for attendees for activities, networkings and meetings. Many meetings are too tight on time and not allow proper networking and allowing significant others to attend and enjoy theirselves.	Oct 22, 2012 8:21 AM
40	I prefer locations such as Denver, where large airports are located and direct flights are possible. Due to the added costs and travel time, I do not prefer "dead end" airports, where it is difficult to get direct flights or an additional 2-3 hours must be added to drive to the meeting location.	Oct 22, 2012 8:18 AM
41	Have the banquet on Monday or Tuesday night rather than on the last night of the last day of the conference. Hold section meetings on Sunday afternoon before President's social. Papers and posters on Mon and Tues and optional tour on Wed.	Oct 22, 2012 8:12 AM
42	The time of year when the meeting occurs also is related to where it might be located. If in Florida....a early spring meeting make sense while if in Canada, a summer one may be more reasonable.	Oct 22, 2012 8:09 AM
43	Consider holding the PAA every third year, like EAPR.	Oct 22, 2012 8:08 AM
44	Free room and board, eh.	Oct 18, 2012 10:14 AM