



## Oregon Potato Commission

# NEWSLETTER

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Oregon Potato Commission will hold a public budget hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Friday June 4, 2010. The regular quarterly Commission meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. These meetings will be held in Klamath Falls, OR.

The purpose of the public budget hearing is to receive testimony and evidence on the proposed budget for operation of the Oregon Potato Commission during fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Any person desiring to submit facts or data, orally or in writing, may do so by attending the public hearing or by contacting the Commission Executive Director before the hearing date.

Bill Brewer, Executive Director  
Oregon Potato Commission  
9320 SW Barbur Blvd., Suite130  
Portland, OR 97219  
Phone: (503) 731-3300

A copy of the proposed budget will be posted under News—Publications on the Oregon Potato Commission website

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### Farmers Ending Hunger (FEH) recognized Willamette Valley farmers efforts to help end hunger in Oregon

Farmers Ending Hunger is a statewide non-profit formed four years ago by Fred Ziari and other agricultural leaders in Oregon. Since last year's economic turndown, there have been record increases in the demand for food boxes across Oregon. The response by farmers to the plea has been staggering.

Last year, Farmers were asked to donate an acre or more of crops at the beginning of the season. Food processors like Norpac Foods, a Stayton, OR based cooperative and Truitt Bros., Inc., a Salem, OR food processing company, processed over 600,000 pounds of high quality vegetable food crops and donated it all to FEH, and were distributed through the Oregon Food Bank Network.

2.1 million pounds of food crops were donated in 2009. The donated crops included peas, carrots, green beans, sweet corn, potatoes, onions, wheat and cattle.

FEH has been supported by grants from the Oregon Food Bank, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Lamb Foundation and Kraft Foods. The public is also asked to participate through the "Adopt an Acre" program where their donations help with the costs of transportation, handling and processing /packaging of the donated food crops.

For further information visit the FEH website [www.farmersendinghunger.com](http://www.farmersendinghunger.com) or contact Executive Director John Burt at 503-931-9232 or [burtjgb@aol.com](mailto:burtjgb@aol.com).

#### Potato Conference Update

USPB Committee Election Results

OPC Research Committee Recommendations

For 2010-2011

Oregon  
POTATOES

## **NW Representatives Accept One Year Terms on USPB Committees**

Lon Baley, of Klamath Falls, and Molly Conners, of Washington, were elected to the USPB Executive Committee March 12, 2010. Cheryl Koopin, of Idaho, was elected as the 2010-2011 US Potato Board Chairperson.

Three representatives from the NW Region are allowed to serve on the seven person Executive Committee. The NW Region consists of USDA appointed representatives from Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana.

Troy Betz, of Hermiston, and Marty Myers, of Boardman, were elected to the NW Administrative Committee, along with two representatives from Washington and Montana and six representatives from Idaho.

Lon Baley will also serve as the co-chair of the International Committee.

*By Bill Brewer*

## **Washington/Oregon Potato Conference Update**

The first annual joint conference held by potato growers of Washington and Oregon at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, Washington, January 26-28 was Grade A according to participants. "By all counts, the event was a winner for all groups that attended," said Mike Dodds, chair of the conference board. With attendance up 18 percent over last year's and contributors backing the event's activities with more than \$97,000 in donations and in-kind contributions, the Conference offered educational sessions, trade show business and networking opportunities to more than 1,600 people. "Even in today's tough economy, businesses demonstrated their support for our potato growers and industry and the education that the Conference provides," said Dodds. The success makes the event even more attractive for next year. The two states had agreed to a three-year trial of the joint venture and have signed an agreement with the Convention Center to secure the facility on the last week in January.

*By Karen Bonaudi*

## **Commissioner Terms of Service Ending**

June 30, 2010 the commissioner terms of office for Jim Carleton (of Merrill, OR) and Jerry Strickland (of Huntington, OR) will be coming to an end. Both men have shown great dedication for the Potato Growers of Oregon during their years of service and are likely to be nominated for another term.

This is the time to let the commission office know if you think there is another grower in the Klamath Basin or Malheur growing regions, who would be willing to serve on the Oregon Potato Commission. We encourage you to contact your local growers' association representative to discuss possible new candidates.

## **Oregon California Potato Committee Marketing Order No. 947**

There will be six Producer Member and Alternate openings and three Handler Member and Alternate openings on May 31, 2010 for this Federal Marketing Order. Three Members and three Alternate Members are desperately needed for the Tule lake region, which has become increasingly more difficult to fulfill the membership requirements over the years.

The Committee encourages women, minorities and the physically challenged to participate in nominations and to seek membership on the Committee.

If you or someone you know are willing to be nominated, please contact the Oregon Potato Commission office at (503) 731-3300.

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*www.oregonspuds.com by April 15, 2010 and may be obtained by writing to the Commission. Copies will also be available for inspection during reasonable business hours at the county extension offices throughout the state of Oregon.*

## Oregon Potato Commission Dollars at Work

**D**id you know that more than 27% of the OPC Budget goes directly toward Research, Variety Development and Extension Services?

Below is a list of projects and services being recommended by the Research Committee for the 2010-2011 Budget.



*Brian Charlton*

<u>Project Leaders</u>	<u>Title</u>
Brian Charlton	Klamath Basin Research & Extension Potato Program
Joel Felix	Evaluation of Fomesafen Herbicide for Control of Yellow Nutsedge in Potatoes
Americ Goyer	Increasing the Nutritional Value of Potato, Determination of Vitamin Concentration in Newly Released Varieties
Phil Hamm	Blue Mountain Potato Extension & Potato Plant Pathology Research Program
Steve James	Central Oregon Potato Extension Program
Lynn Jensen	Malheur County Extension Program
Silvia Rondon	Monitoring Potato Insect Pests in Eastern Oregon, Education, Communication and Dissemination of Information
Silvia Rondon	Treatment Thresholds for the Beet Leafhopper to Manage Potato Purple Top Disease in the Columbia Basin
Clint Shock	Oregon Potato Variety Development Program
Isabel Vales	Crop Science and Foundation Seed Production
Isabel Vales	Potato Breeding and Variety Development



*Phil Hamm*

### Recent Update

Since the Research Committee's recommendations, Isabel Vales has announced that she has accepted a position in India and will be leaving the OSU Potato Breeding program in June. The program will continue while a search for a new project leader takes place.



*Isabel Vales*



*Lynn Jensen*



*Steve James*

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## Oregon Potato Commission

### Members:

*Chairman Lon Baley, Malin*  
*Vice Chairman Dan Walchli, Hermiston*  
*Tony Amstad, Hermiston*  
*Leif Eric Benson, Timberline Lodge*  
*Jim Carleton, Merrill*  
*Jim Carlson, Culver*  
*Nels Iverson, Jefferson*  
*Marty Myers, Boardman*  
*Jerry Strickland, Huntington*  
*Richard Wagstaff, Nyssa*

### Staff:

*Bill Brewer, Executive Director*  
*Jennifer Fletcher, Administrative Director*  
*Judy Schwartz, Administrative Assistant*

### Upcoming Events

March 31, 2010	PVMI Meeting—Portland, OR
April 2, 2010	OPC 3rd Quarterly Meeting - Portland, OR
April 24-25, 2010	AgFest - State Fair Grounds, Salem, OR
April 26-28, 2010	State Manager's Public Policy Meetings - Washington DC
June 4, 2010	OPC 4th Quarterly Meeting & Budget Hearing - Klamath Falls, OR - Contact OPC office for location

*~Please email [judy@oregonspuds.com](mailto:judy@oregonspuds.com) for address updates or to be removed from this mailing.~*