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## **OREGON POTATO COMMISSION NAMES WINNERS OF SECOND ANNUAL “OREGON POTATOES GOODNESS UNEARTHED GOLD MEDAL AWARDS”**

*Awards given to standout potatoes, highlighting flavor and texture from different terroirs*

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – February 1, 2013 – The Oregon Potato Commission (OPC) held its second annual “Oregon Potatoes Goodness Unearthed Gold Medal Awards” on January 30 at the annual Washington-Oregon Potato Conference in Kennewick, Wash. The awards program was developed to highlight the flavor distinctions between varieties in different growing regions throughout Oregon.

Growers entered potatoes by variety – russets, yellows, reds and specialty – and seven professional chefs from the American Culinary Federation’s Chefs de Cuisine Society of Oregon, carefully judged each potato in the categories of taste, texture, appearance and aroma.

The judging chefs found considerable differences within each category: “It’s fascinating how two potatoes of the same variety can have a range of flavor differences simply because they are grown in two different *terroirs*, or growing regions,” said Chef Leif Benson, Oregon’s 2010 and 2012 chef of the year and OPC public member. “Similar to wine, natural elements like the soil and climate can impact the potato’s flavor, texture and aroma.”

The award-winning spuds came from the following Oregon entrants:

- Russet Potato – [Lane Farms](#), “Norkotah” (La Grande, Ore.)
- Yellow Potato – [Discovery Gardens](#), “Yukon Gold” (Klamath Falls, Ore.)
- Red Potato – [Chin Farms](#), “Modoc” (Klamath Falls, Ore.)
- Specialty Potato – [Chin Farms](#), “Ruby Fingerling” (Klamath Falls, Ore.)

### **About the Oregon Potato Commission**

The Oregon Potato Commission was formed in 1949 to represent the state’s five potato growing regions (Blue Mountain, Central Oregon, Klamath, Malheur and Willamette Valley) in educational, trade development, research, legislative affairs, and public relations activities. Development of sales and markets for Oregon’s potato crop is one of the Commission’s roles. Programs are designed to improve Oregon’s market share in-state and in other prominent West Coast markets. Export markets for processed potato products and, increasingly, fresh potatoes and raw product are also included in market development and promotional programs in the Pacific Rim and other market areas. The Commission’s largest focus is on a series of ongoing research programs in cooperation with Oregon State University. The results of these programs place Oregon among the top in the United States in potato production volume and yield per acre. For more information, visit [www.OregonSpuds.com](http://www.OregonSpuds.com).

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