



# PRESS RELEASE

## Change in Leadership for the Oregon Potato Commission

**Mark Ward has been elected Chairman  
with Rob Wagstaff elected as Vice Chairman**



**Mark Ward** begins his fifth year on the Oregon Potato Commission as Chairman effective July 1, 2017. In 2013 Ward was appointed as the first Grower “At Large” position on the OPC. He has served as the commission’s Trade Chair and participated on a Pacific Rim trade mission in 2013.

Ward has also served as Oregon’s representative on the National Potato Council and has participated in west coast Agricultural Transportation Coalition discussions over the last two years.

Chairman Ward told the commission, “My goal is to maximize our opportunities, to increase trade and sell more Oregon Potatoes.”

He has served on the Malheur Potato Bargaining Association for 30 years, the Northwest Farm Credit Service Advisory Committee for 17 years and the Baker Valley Irrigation District for 14.

The Ward family has been growing potatoes in Baker County every year, since 1915. Most of the Wards’ potatoes are processed into frozen products. Their other crops include wheat, mint, alfalfa, hay and barley.

**Rob Wagstaff** is the newly elected Vice Chairman and also serves as Co-Chairman of both the OPC Consumer Research & Education and Legislative Committees. Other crops raised are onions, wheat and sugar beets.



**Dan Chin**, OPC’s outgoing Chairman, served for three years and will sit as adviser on the Executive Committee.

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