

Potato Researchers from US/World to Meet in Buffalo

by Carol R. MacNeil, CCE, Cornell Vegetable Program

Potato Association of America's 92nd Annual Meeting Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara Hotel, Buffalo August 10-14, 2008

New York State potato growers and associated agribusinesses have a unique opportunity this summer to be part of the Potato Association of America (PAA) 92nd Annual Meeting in Buffalo. University and industry potato researchers from across the US and around the world will be gathering to share and discuss their latest research. Topics range from production practices and pest management to tuber quality, marketing and economics, and genetics and breeding. In addition to presentations on research, the conference includes an agricultural – potato tour, and time to network.

The meeting opens Sunday, August 10th with an evening reception. Monday, August 11th begins with a symposium on "Potato Market Challenges and Opportunities," with presenters from all over the world. Marketing trends, consumer preferences, trade, and balancing supply and demand will be covered. Monday afternoon there will be research reports on the causes of stem end defects, potato response to phosphorus, yield increases with new stress control technologies, etc. as well as on more basic topics.

Tuesday, August 12th is Grower/Industry Day, focused on production and pest management. Topics include: fine-tuning rates of high priced fertilizers; crediting N from previous crops; using controlled release N fertilizer, effects of potato hill geometry; fungicide trials for seed-borne and foliar diseases; phosphorus acid fungicides for silver scurf control in storage; late blight-pink rot interactions; effects of global warming on potato volunteers and late blight survival over-winter; late blight resistance breeding update; effects of tank-mixing herbicides; performance of new varieties and breeding lines; calcium and tuber internal quality; and meeting the USDA GAP standards.

The tour on Wednesday will stop at McCormick Farms, the largest potato producers in New York, at intensive vegetable operations in the Eden Valley, and at Wegman's supermarket. McCormick Farms in Bliss, NY is a state-of-the-art business that produces, stores, washes, grades and markets potatoes for long-term utilization as chips all along the Eastern seaboard. Jim and Tom McCormick are excellent cooperators and a Cornell trial of chipping varieties and breeding lines will be viewed at their farm. *(Growers interested in touring McCormick's are welcome to join the group at the farm after lunch. Indicate your interest on the registration form and more details will be sent to you.)*

On Thursday morning reports will conclude with presentations on constraints to potato system sustainability: soils, diseases and economics; more reports on nitrogen research reports; as well as topics on basic research.

The Potato Association of America (PAA) membership includes university research and extension staff, industry personnel and growers from the US, Canada, Mexico, South America, and 50 other countries. Its objective is the collection and dissemination of the best available technical and practical information relating to all aspects of potato production, biology and utilization. For more visit www.umaine.edu/PAA.