

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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Government Affairs Report By Pat Kole

The 2010 Idaho Legislative session is now behind us. The legislature faced tough economic decisions and there was not an area of state spending that didn't receive tough scrutiny. The tight economic times forced many issues to the sidelines as the focus was on balancing the state budget. On the Federal level, the same type of situation is playing out. Many of the programs that the industry has worked hard to fund over the years face budgetary pressures and it will be difficult to maintain funding for these programs.

We have been working to restore access to the two remaining markets, Korea and Japan, which we lost with the PCN find. We've made progress with Korea and expect that after a Korean nematologist visits the PCN program in May, that market will be reopened to Idaho® potatoes.

Industry Relations Report By Todd Cornelison

Updated GAP Manual Now Available

The University of Idaho has updated the previously available Potato GAP Audit Organizational Manual. The UI manual is designed to simplify the collection of information necessary to pass the USDA GAP Audit and is now available for download at the UI Kimberly R&E Potato Storage website: <http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu/potatoes/gap.htm>.

In November of 2009 the USDA replaced the May 11, 2007 version of their Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) & Good Handling Practices (GHP) Audit Verification Checklist. The new version has three major changes: 1) new identification of records, policy or documentation requirements, 2) new numbering, wording or point values for previously asked questions, and 3) the addition of new questions and traceability questions were added to each section. The updated UI GAP Audit Organizational Manual incorporated these changes into the newest version and this manual will be useful in preparing for the 2010 GAP Audit.

IPC is considering organizing a training seminar to help industry members understand the GAP process. If you are interested in this, please send me an e-mail as soon as possible. My e-mail address is tcornelison@potato.idaho.gov.

Calendar

April

- 13-14 IPC Commission Meeting, Eagle, ID
- 20-23 United Fresh Produce Association Convention, Las Vegas, NV

May

- 4 United of Idaho Board Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID
- 6 IGSA Board Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID
- 13-14 IPC Commission Meeting, Eagle, ID
- 15 Idaho Potato Commission Marathon, Boise, ID
- 17-20 IPC Retail Whistlestop Tour
- 18 IPC Marketing Committee Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID
- 22-25 National Restaurant Association Show, Chicago, IL

June

- 1 United of Idaho Board Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID

- 7 Idaho Eastern Oregon Potato Committee Meeting, Twin Falls, ID
- 8 IGSA Board Meeting, Twin Falls, ID
- 15-17 NPC Summer Meeting, Alamosa, CO
- 22-23 IPC Commission Meeting, Eagle, ID

July

- 6 United of Idaho Board Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID
- 21-21 IPC Commission Meeting, Eagle, ID