

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



Brought to you by the Idaho Potato Commission
Website: www.idahopotato.com

January 13, 2009

Government Affairs Report

By Pat Kole

Over the past three weeks, I've participated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and USDA APHIS in Bi-lateral negotiations with Japan and Korea. Our aim has been to restore export eligibility for Idaho® potatoes to these two countries. I'm pleased to report that we have made progress with both countries in our efforts to reopen these markets. There are remaining technical issues to resolve, but we are on a good path.

I also attended the US/Canada Potato Committee meeting in early November. You have seen the Press Release jointly issued by the National Potato Council and the Canadian Horticulture Council outlining the results of that meeting. I believe that this meeting marked the first time that the industry representatives from both countries actually grappled with and brokered an agreement regarding a serious problem, PCN. It is now our responsibility on both sides of the border to work to ensure that our governments implement what industry has agreed to.

Industry Relations Report

By Todd Cornelison

Potato Industry meeting to be held in Pocatello

The Idaho Potato Commission is sponsoring an Industry meeting to be held in Pocatello immediately following the Potato School. Everybody is invited; the meeting will take place at the Pocatello Red Lion hotel on Thursday, January 22nd.

We will begin with an **OPEN** Ag Affairs Committee meeting beginning at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. The open meeting will allow for industry input on legislative issues prior to the state legislative session and the NPC Public Policy meeting which will be held in D.C. in February. This is your opportunity to make sure your voice is heard!

Following the Ag Affairs meeting, there will be a no host cocktail hour from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.. A buffet style dinner with a guest speaker will be offered from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to tcornelison@potato.idaho.gov immediately, if you are planning on attending the dinner.

This promises to be a very informative evening and I hope all can attend.

Idaho Potato Industry POPAC to hold auction in Pocatello

The newly formed Idaho Potato Industry PAC is holding an auction at the Red Lion hotel in Pocatello from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday January 22nd (immediately following the IPC dinner). The auction is sponsored by the IGSA and PGI. Come join us to help build funds for our new PAC!

Calendar

January

- 7th-8th NPC Potato Expo, San Antonio, TX
- 9th-10th NPC Annual meeting/USPB Winter meeting, San Antonio, TX
- 15th Ag All Star Legislative Banquet (Historical Museum - Boise: 6:30 Reception, 7:30 Dinner) Contact Rick Waitley, 208-888-0988
- 20th Potato Seed seminar, Pocatello Idaho
- 20th IPC Cost of Production Committee meeting, Red Lion Inn, Pocatello, ID 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21st-22nd 41st Annual Idaho Potato Conference and Eastern Idaho Ag Show, Pocatello, ID
- 22nd IPC Ag Affairs meeting and Dinner, Red Lion Hotel, Pocatello, ID 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 22nd Potato Industry PAC auction, Red Lion Hotel, Pocatello, ID
- 28th-29th Idaho Potato Commission Meeting, Boise, ID

February

- 9th – 10th UPGA Marketing Committee and Board of Directors meetings, Hard Rock Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
- 23rd Ag Summit Strolling Dinner (Double Tree Riverside - Boise, 5:30 p.m.)
Contact Rick Waitley, 208-888-0988
- 23rd – 24th Idaho Ag Summit (Double Tree Riverside - Boise)
Contact Rick Waitley, 208-888-0988 or www.idahoagsummit.org
- 25th Food Producers of Idaho Weekly Legislative Meeting (Idaho Ag & Grain Ctr - Boise: 9:00 A)
Contact Rick Waitley, 208-888-0988
- 19th-26th Potato Industry Leadership Institute, Washington, DC.