



Variety News

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2009

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Tri-State Tour 2009

New Potato Institute Bringing in Dollars for Research, Product Marketing

by [Kathy Barnard](#), CAHNRS Marketing & News Services

Before 2005, administering and marketing potato varieties developed in Washington, Oregon and Idaho was primarily the purview of research universities in each of those states. Today, a new organization charged with those tasks -- the Potato Variety Management Institute -- is turning new varieties into cash to further the regional industry's research and marketing goals.



"It's starting to pay off," said Jeanne Debons, PVMI executive director. She was a featured speaker at the WSU Potato Field Day in Othello June 26.

Potato commissions in the three states launched PVMI in 2005. The non-profit corporation is housed in Bend, Ore., and provides a grower-controlled alternative to the universities' efforts to manage varieties and interact with processors and end users.

"Each new potato variety takes from 13 to 15 years from the first cross to being released," Debons said. "That is a lot of investment on the part of our three states. And if they're not protected, anyone in the world could use them for free."

Today, growers in the three states involved pay \$250 a year to license the new potato varieties they grow. Other U.S. growers pay \$500, and growers outside the United States pay \$1,000 a year. In addition, growers pay annual royalties when they sell seed of PVMI varieties. Since 2005, PVMI has collected more than \$200,000 in licensing fees and \$225,000 in royalties. "The royalties is where the big money will eventually come in," Debons said. She noted that almost two-thirds of the new revenue is being generated outside of Washington, Idaho and Oregon.



Funds generated by the license fees and royalties will be returned to the potato breeding programs to help fund a variety of research projects for the industry at universities in the three states.

"Potato breeding programs at the universities in all three states are in dire straits because of budget cuts and the economy," Debons said. "The infrastructure is now in place to administer the new varieties to help fund the research our industry needs."

This article originally appeared in the July 1, 2009 edition of [On Solid Ground](#).

Here's a quick look at interesting pre-released clones that have performed well in field and post harvest quality evaluations. If you are interested in seeing how these might perform on your farm please contact either PVMI or one of the scientists in the Tri-State Breeding Program who will organize an MTA (Material Transfer Agreement) and seed if there is any available. In order to evaluate pre-released lines a PVMI annual sub-license is required.

A0008-ITE



In Tri-State Regional Trials in 2008 this russet has shown excellent promise for both fresh market and processing in early and late trials. A0008-ITE had one of the highest US #1 yields in the trial. It also had the fresh market highest gross return in both early and late trials. It has oblong tubers with a moderate russet and fair skin set with shallow eyes. The fry color is light and uniform.



A97066-42LB - Late Blight Resistant



A97066-42LB is most notable for its resistance to late blight and possibly other diseases. It may be susceptible to defects with 5% green tubers observed as well a propensity towards shatter bruise. The tubers are oblong with light russet, poor skin set; and shallow eyes. The fry color is light and non-uniform.

AO96141-3 Dual Purpose to be released if interest



This pre-released line has good performance in both early and late regional trials. Its overall post harvest rating was amongst the highest scoring clones and was least variable in tuber shape and fry yield. The oblong to long tubers have a moderate russet with fair skin set and shallow eyes. The fry color is light and uniform. AO96141-3 may be moderately susceptible to blackspot bruise. It was noted for good favor and color in two years taste tests.

Photos by Mark Pavlek

PA99N2-1

This clone has the highest gross return for the process market in both early and late regional trials. It also looked promising in the late regional trial for highest total and market yields. A delicious potato, this clone may offer resistance against the nematode *M. Chitwoodi*, as well as other diseases. This clone produced large sprouts after 7 month of storage indicating a relatively short dormancy. The tubers are round to oblong and have moderate russet with poor skin set and shallow eyes. The fry color is light and uniform.



PA99N82-4



Showing potential for superior disease and nematode resistance this clone was rated highest by the taste panel and has performed well in post harvest evaluations. It has round to oblong tubers with moderately heavy russet, poor skin set and shallow eyes. It rated high for gross return for the process market. Growth cracks and shatter bruise may be problems. The fry color is light and uniform.

**BEFORE YOU PLAN, PLANT OR MARKET,
TALK TO PVMI ABOUT NORTHWEST POTATO VARIETIES.**

Considering planting a yellow skinned, yellow flesh variety?
CONSIDER YUKON GEM.

YUKON GEM IS OF GREAT PARENTAGE being a cross between Brodie and Yukon Gold with disease resistance and better yields. This beauty has good resistance to stress related tuber defects and is resistant to PVY⁰, common scab, shatter bruise and late blight, making it an excellent candidate for organic production.

Yukon Gem also is a great tasting chipping variety.

For more information about all the PVMI varieties including agronomy notes and licensing information please go to the website or call.

PVMI, a non-profit organization, works in cooperation with the University of Idaho, Oregon State University, Washington State University and the Agricultural Research Service to promote and license new Tri-State potato varieties.

We're here to help you succeed.

www.pvmi.org
(541) 318-1485

PREMIER RUSSET · BLAZER RUSSET · YUKON GEM · DEFENDER · ALTURAS · IVORY CRISP · HIGHLAND RUSSET

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Up and Coming Events

August 9 - 13, 2009

PAA Annual Meetings

New Brunswick, Canada

Contact: Loretta Mikitzel

506.392.5199

loretta.mikitzel@gnb.ca

November 3 - 4, 2009

**Montana Potato Growers
Meeting**

Contact: potatocert@montana.edu

Jan 4 - 6, 2010

Potato Expo, Orlando, FL

Contact: Hollee Alexander

202.682.9456

Jan 20 - 21, 2010

Idaho Potato Conference

Contact: Idaho State University,

Pocatello

Contact: 800.635.2274

Jan 26 - 28, 2010

**Joint Washington State and
Oregon Potato Conference**

Tri-Cities Convention Center,

Kennewick, WA

www.potatoconference.com

2009 Pacific Northwest Tri-State Potato Selection Tour

You are invited to participate!

The annual tri-state tour provides an opportunity for members of the northwest potato industry and further a field to see the result of the latest crosses made in the program. It will also have those pre-released clones that have been chosen for the advanced trials. See what's coming up in the breeding program. Put in your ideas about what you would like to see in the future. Have a chance to talk directly with the potato breeders and research scientists. See www.pvmi.org for details.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Type of event</i> | <i>Material evaluated</i> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Wed. Sept 16 | Aberdeen, ID | Field selections | Second field year of evaluations. Russets, chippers, red-skin with white or yellow flesh, and yellow-fleshed specialty types. |
| Fri. Sept 25 | Corvallis, OR | Foliar Late blight field evaluations | Screening of early breeding clones (mainly processing) and advanced material (processing and specialty potatoes) |
| Mon Sept 28 | Hermiston, OR | Field selections | Second field generation (mainly processing potatoes) and advanced material (processing and specialty potatoes) |
| Tues & Wed Sept 29-30 | Powell Butte, OR | Field selections | Single hills (first field year of evaluations) of processing potatoes and second year selections clones (mainly processing) |
| Thurs & Fri Oct 1-2 | Klamath Falls, OR | Field selections | Single hills, early breeding and advanced material (specialty potatoes and russets) |
| Tues & Wed Oct 6-7 | Aberdeen, ID | Field selections | Single hills comprising red-skin with white or yellow flesh, and yellow-fleshed specialty types. |

Dates provided may change due to weather conditions. It is recommended that you contact hosts prior to travel to confirm that the event is still scheduled for the indicated date and also to coordinate your travel plans.

Addresses, meeting times, hosts and hotel information see details at www.pvmi.org