D. MINUTES OF THE NE 1014 TECHNICAL MEETING - January 21, 2004

Presiding Officer: Craig Yencho of NCSU for Walter De Jong, Cornell University
Venue: Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

Participants: Craig Yencho (PA), Matt Kleinhenz (OH), Chad Hutchinson & J. Marion White (FL), Kathy Hanes & Leslie Wanner (USDA-Beltsville-MA), Barb Christ (PA), Don Halseth (NY), Rikki Sterrett (VA), Mel Henninger (NJ), Dave Lambert, Greg Porter, Steve Reiling, Zenaida Ganga & Paul Ocaya (ME) and David DeKoeyer (NB-Canada)

- The meeting was officially called to order at 8:00 am by C. Yencho, Vice-Chair

1. Meeting agenda was introduced; addition or revision was solicited; agenda approved
2. Introduction - participants introduced themselves
3. Minutes of last year’s (2003) meeting was presented and approved – no further discussion
4. Appointments of Committees for 2004
   - Site Selection : Don Halseth & Matt Kleinhenz
   - Nomination: Barb Christ & Rikki Sterrett
   - Resolution: Chad Hutchinson & Mel Henninger
5. Local arrangements by G. Porter – Registration fee in the amount of $35 per participant will be collected; discussion of Maine’s Breeding Program clones will be done after the meeting
6. Administrative Advisor Report by S. Reiling:
   - Reminded the group that a summary report of the meeting should be submitted to him within 60 days after the meeting
   - S. Reiling told the group that Walter De Jong informed him earlier of his absence (attending another meeting in CA), hence C. Yencho (Vice-Chair) was asked to preside the meeting
   - Informed the group that this year’s CSREES budget will be discussed at USDA sometime in the next 2 weeks
   - Dr. Thro did not make it to this meeting but will try to attend the PAA meeting in Nebraska (accdg. To G. Porter)
   - NE 1014 grant status & yearly renewal – S. Reiling would try to follow it up; Accdg. to G. Porter, he had a discussion with A. Thro re the budget - she promised to try get more money but did not give any promise re change on the yearly renewal arrangement of the grant because this is the usual procedure being followed; she’d be happy to make changes if possible but the legislature dictates the process (accdg. to C. Yencho)
   - S. Reiling asked who should make the suggestion to have a multi-year funding instead. A suggestion was given that it would be better if the
industry should do it. After a short discussion, S. Reiling volunteered to discuss the matter with A. Thro.

7. CSREES Report – No report given
8. Eastern Region USDA-CSREES potato special grant update – G. Porter
   - The 2005 proposal was submitted with minor changes on the proposed activities; he mentioned that the part on “program report” can be improved further; expressed thanks to everybody for their cooperation in submitting needed requirements
   - Informed the group that the budget mentioned in this year’s RFA was slightly lower compared to last year’s
   - There was a general consensus that more funding is needed but the question “how” remains
   - S Reiling – NE 1014 grant may receive the same budget because there are more states receiving the grant but the overall amount remains the same or lesser
   - G. Porter – 2004/2005 request was for less funding than last year; he asked the group that if there are plans to make major changes in next year’s proposal (2005/2006), he should be informed earlier, before November
   - C. Yencho acknowledged G. Porter’s work and effort in coordinating and putting the proposal together
   - C Yencho commented that “Me represents the critical part of the proposal but raised a question whether there is a need to rotate the coordinatorship?
   - B Christ – it would be better to have one person doing the job – it’s an advantage.
   - R. Sterrett suggested that a committee can be created to help with the progress report; M. Kleinheinz – other “administrative paper work” can be done by other person
   - G. Porter – in the past, A. Bushway helped him with the administrative paper work; this year was easier; he mentioned that there will be more work next year to close the previous proposal because an extension was requested
   - C. Hutchinson – Florida decided not to ask funding for 2004/2005 because there might be other states which need the funding; the breeding programs should be given priority; University of Maine should be funded so that FL would continue to receive materials from the program. FL wants to continue to participate in the evaluation activities – would like to participate fully as “non-funded program”
   - A committee was formed to help in the preparation of progress report as follows: D. Halseth (Chair), K. Haynes & Z. Ganga; Progress report should be ready before November; 4-5 pages only and should match with the objectives

9. State, federal and provincial site reports:
• Canada (D. DeKoeyer) – There is a continuing change at Agriculture Canada. The potato cultivar development & genetic enhancement program underwent a scientific peer review and input from representatives from public and private sectors. The program will have a strong emphasis on the processing sector. Resources will be re-aligned to facilitate delivery of strategic focused results. A potato research network meeting will be conducted in February, 2004.

Florida (C. Hutchinson) – total acreages planted to potatoes is up but had major problem with internal heat necrosis in var. Atlantic (25%). It was extremely wet and hot during the early period of the season. The presence of late blight in the southern part was confirmed. Chip companies didn’t ask for contracts and as a result, Atlantic was in the ground longer. Growers are now looking for other crops to grow. They lost some growers because of problems on contracts, production and others. Independent chippers do not want contracts. Frito Lay advised growers not to plant until February, they need potatoes as late as June. Improved storage and methods should keep potatoes longer in storage. Local markets within Florida want special yellow-fleshed potatoes. He also mentioned that processors are becoming interested in buying rights for chipping potatoes.

• Maine (G. Porter) – Production is stable in terms of acreage (~62k acres), 1k higher than last year. Less drought stress was observed; in central ME (10% of total acres) most potatoes are irrigated; in northern ME there was lots of rain in July; hence disease incidence was a problem. In some wet places there was higher incidence of growth cracks, hollow heart and other defects. Most growers had average crop, with some quality problems. The trend for “low carb-diets” has resulted to poor fresh market demand. In the central ME NE-1014 trial there was problem on post-emergence herbicide application. Total ME production utilization - 60% processing, 20% seed, and 20% fresh. An economic impact analysis of the potato industry was conducted by Maine Potato Board. Results and highlights of the study can be found on the MPB website.

• New Jersey (M. Henninger) – There was no irrigation at southern Jersey; because of the very wet season there was very little problem with internal heat necrosis. About 3,000 acres was planted to potatoes. A major problem with lat blight in tomatoes; probable A2 mating type, race is not identified yet. Field rotting in potatoes was also a problem; should do evaluation? Leafhopper damage is an emerging problem, especially with var. Superior.

• New York (D. Halseth) – Dr, Bill Brodie (nematologist) has retired; will hire a replacement, applicants have been interviewed. The temperature was below average throughout the growing season; got rainfall later in July. Total acres are about 22,000 in the main state and about 4-5,000 in Long Island. About 5-7% was grown for seeds; of the 12 seed growers; some maybe dropping off will affect NY
Foundation Seed Farm production. Some growers think that Christmas tree production is better than potatoes.

- **North Carolina (C. Yencho)** – a total of 18-19,000 acres was planted to potatoes. Started cool and wet; some early plantings were waterlogged. Heat necrosis was not a real issue. Problem with fire ants that burrow into potatoes was observed. No spotted wilt observed as compared to last year’s. There was a touch of late blight but did not have a significant impact. The market climate is in sad condition. D. Cooper, a successful potato grower sold his farm; was bought by Black Gold company of North Dakota.

- **Ohio (M. Kleinhenz)** – Observed lower than normal temperature but much rain than normal – it was hard to fertilize and cultivate (too wet), Better yield (2x) and quality than last year. Production was utilized as 50% processed and 50% fresh market. The bigger growers are for fresh market.

- **Pennsylvania (B. Christ)** – It was cool all-season; mid-August rainfall was a record-breaker for the last 100 years. Planting was hard because it was too wet. There was a pink rot problem with var. Reba. Late blight problem was observed, also in tomatoes. Production is 50% processing and 50% fresh market. A new concern is the discovery of a new biotype of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in some ornamental greenhouses.

- **Virginia (R. Sterrett)** – It was a good year for the evaluation of external defects; 20% of the crop loss was due to hollow heart, internal heat necrosis and black heart. Black spots were observed in low spots (flooded areas). There were problems with contract growing. Wireworms resistance to pesticides (carbamates and organophosphates) was observed; hence a need to screen for resistance to wireworm. About 2,500 acres were planted to potatoes.

10. Comments from industry representatives – no representative present

11. Pathology tests reports

- **B. Christ (PA)** – It was a good year for late blight and early blight screening. Question was raised re powdery scab resistance rating – rating is variable depending on the environment.

- **D. Lambert (ME)** – White mold disease incidence is increasing and becoming an important problem; PMTV- barely seen symptoms, no foliar symptom; Pink Rot – another variety trial will be conducted in 2004, interested party may submit their entries; 2 inoculation methods will be evaluated: inoculation thru the eyes or spray tubers; Ring rot trial will be conducted in collaboration with Canada; common scab field trial will also be conducted.

- Question was raised by M. Henninger, if there is any work being done on black dot? Symptom is similar to silver scurf, stem looks washed-out like scorching; usually seen in drier years; it’s increasing and emerging as an important disease,
no good chemical to control; it’s a stress-related disease; the pathogen survives well in the soil and usually becomes a part of the early dying disease when it get severe.

12. Breeding reports:
   • NY – (Don Halseth gave the report in behalf of Walter De Jong) Discussed the 12 most advanced and promising clones of the program; copies of Potato Show and Tell 2003 report available for details.

   • USDA (K. Haynes)- Three clones are available for regional testing namely: B1240-1, B1806-8, B1826-1; two new clones for NE 1014 are B1826-1 and B 1952-2. Discussed the highlights of their studies on internal heat necrosis and resistance to late blight and early blight. Informed the group of USDA’s plan on Plant Variety Protection (PVP). Harley Blackwell, was publicly released but the next varieties will probably be applied for PVP.

   • Canada (D. DeKoeyer)- In 2003 the Potato Research Center offered three French fry, one fresh market, and one chip selection for 2 years of non-exclusive evaluation in the first step of the Accelerated Release program, a release procedure which has been in place for six years now. Over this time, 31 selections have been offered and ten companies from four provinces have received the selections for evaluations. Further information about the Accelerated Release program and the 2004 selections can be viewed at http://res2.agr.ca/fredericton/selection2004_e.htm. A new clone that is resistant to wart was selected from the progeny of a cross made by K.G. Proudfoot in 1991; its purpose is to meet the demand for wart resistant, red-skinned potato variety with white flesh for the Newfoundland and Labrador table stock market. It has been recommended for full registration in the public domain with the proposed name of Glenwood Red. An oracle database was developed for management of breeding and germplasm development data. A core bioinformatics network was established at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada’s Potato Research Center. Two industry funded insect resistance research project are on-going at the research center in collaboration with Dr. Y. Pelletier.

   • North Carolina (C. Yencho)- Informed the group of his relocation to Raleigh campus and promotion of Mark Clough to the position of Researcher. Crossing work is in its second year. Studies on IHN and resistance to CPB are continuing. Two students are working on IHN of potatoes; one student from Cornell University uses the molecular approach.

   • Maine (Z. Ganga) – The clone AF 1753-16, a processing clone good for French fry has been licensed (for production and marketing) to McCain Foods, in the spring of 2003. Selected three promising clones are AF 1455-20, AF 1758-7 and AF 1808-18. Other updates include the use of the new storage facility at the Aroostook Research Farm for storage and cold chipping evaluations; hiring of new molecular geneticist (Dr. Benildo de los Reyes) by the University of Maine,
who will closely work with the breeding program; tissue culture and nuclear seed production of selected breeding materials at the new research facility at Island Falls, Maine.

- Breeder’s choices are B1806-8, NY 126 and NY 129.

13. Seed Orders (G. Porter) – Each clone on the “shopping list” was discussed; collaborators should give to P. Ocaya or G. Porter for their final list request.

14. NE 1014 website/database development (D. Halseth & C. Yencho) – Items to be included in the website was solicited and are as follows:
   - Annual Reports
   - Minutes of annual meetings
   - Clones and variety descriptions
   - Individual variety profile for new releases
   - Current top-ten favorites
   - Variety publications/releases
   - Potato diseases and insect problems
   - Project highlights
   - Participant’s address, e-mail, phone number, etc…
   - 5-year project documents
   - AMMI, etc…

Format should be word to pdf; excel spreadsheet for other things; C. Yencho made an actual demonstration of the database, discussing its merits and solicited suggestions from the group. He mentioned that M Clough is working on developing a user-friendly database.

15. AMMI Analysis of NE 1014 data (D. Halseth) – Discussion on the use of AMMI after D. Halseth presented the AMMI updates, his work with G. Tai and D. De Koeyer.

16. Attendance to other regional meeting (C. Yencho) – A question was raised by C. Yencho re the importance of attending meetings of other program or organizations such as the North-Central meeting. Discussion on the merits of attendance followed. Some meetings might be worthwhile for breeders, to know what others are doing and to establish collaboration. According to S. Reiling, it would be worthwhile to attend such meeting if there is an exchange of germplasm between the programs.

17. Discussion: should USDA potato germplasm report continue? (K. Haynes) – after a discussion on its relevance and format; the group agreed that the publication of the report should be continued but a new format should be followed – suggestions on the format: reduce tables but more descriptive information, shorter and limit results to top ten entries of the program, should be prepared like an “annual update”.

18. Clones to be submitted to national trials (G. Porter) – Breeders who would like to submit their entries should contact Rich Novy and should have available seeds of about 700 lbs/ entry; K Haynes will submit B1240-1 to the said trial.
19. Old Business - none
20. New Business - none
21. Committee Reports:
   • Site Selection – 2005 meeting to be held in Florida, possibly Jacksonville or Orlando; Date: January 15, 2005
   • Nomination – 2005 Executive Committee: Chad Hutchinson – Secretary; Vice-Chair-Zenaida Ganga and Chair- Craig Yencho
   • Resolution: “Whereas the annual NE 1014 technical committee meeting has been a productive and enjoyable gathering of friends, let us resolve to:
     ➢ Commend Greg Porter, gain for his efforts in managing the USDA-CREES proposal;
     ➢ Commend Greg Porter, for his efforts on local arrangements;
     ➢ Commend Don Halseth and George Tai, for their on AMMI analyses
     ➢ Commend The NE1 1014 2003-2004 season officers, for their services – Walter De Jong (Chair), Craig Yencho (Vice-Chair) and Zenaida Ganga (Secretary)
     ➢ Commend Don Halseth, Craig Yencho and Mark Clough, for their work on NE 1014 website and database

22. The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm, January 21, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,
ZENAIDA N. GANGA

Participant List
Craig Yencho, (NCSU, NC); Matt Kleinhenz (OSU, OH); Chad Hutchinson & J. Marion White (UF, FL); Kathy Haynes & Leslie Wanner (USDA-ARS, Beltsville-MD); Barbara Christ (PSU, PA); Don Halseth (CU, NY); Susan B. “Rikki” Sterrett (VA Tech, VA); Mel Henninger (Rutgers, NJ); Dave Lambert (UM, ME); Greg Porter (UM, ME); Steve Reiling(UM, ME); Zenaida Ganga (UM, ME); Paul Ocaya (UM, ME); David DeKoeyer (Ag. Canada, NB-Canada)