Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NE1031 Regional Cooperators

Holiday Inn Brownstone, Raleigh, North Carolina

December 18-19, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on December 18 by Leslie Wanner.

In attendance – Mel Heninger, Greg Porter, Leslie Wanner, Craig Yencho, Richard Veilleux, Matt Kleinhenz, Kirby Stafford, Janet McLaughlin, Xinshun Qu, Don Halseth, Walter DeJong, Mark Clough, Chris Hopkins, Tommy Fleetwood

Nominations – R. Veilleux nominated J. Freeman for secretary position, Freeman accepted

Appointment of Committees

 Site Selection Committee – Committee Greg Porter and Craig Yencho
 Resolutions Committee – Don Halseth and Mel Heninger
 Nominations Committee – Mark Clough

Thanks to C. Yencho and M. Clough for local arrangements

Administrative advisor report – K. Stafford – Reminder about proposal timeline, discussion about possible new US secretary of Agriculture. Change of NRI to AFRI. Discussion about future funding sources and pending budget cuts, federal and state. Earmark funds that have previously funded potato research are questionable for the future. REEO Research Education and Extension Office, Divisions will be renewable energy, food safety, plant health, animal health, ag systems.

Update on potato special grant project – G. Porter – Earmark in federal budget. Funding allocated last year was 75% of previous years funding. Four areas were funded last year, eastern region, pacific northwest. North central and Western. Project proposal received positive reviews. Eastern funding was around 200 thousand dollars. All cooperators took a percentage cut, Maine took a larger cut than other cooperators. Industry questions about moving all funding into heavy potato growing regions. Discussion about state level board representations being more unified. Need to boost industry support in an attempt to maintain political support. Discussion about sending and eastern representative to the annual meeting of different facets of the potato industry. Also about moving the NE 1031 to be in conjunction with the NPC meeting in San Antonio. Progress reports for the 07 year will be due July 31 08, final report will be due one year later. A no cost extension will be requested due to the lag in funding. RFP for potato special grants will likely come out after federal budget is resolved, most likely later than February. Greg volunteers to take lead on next year’s proposal. Discussion about drumming up awareness and support of the groups research efforts within state organizations to possibly influence lobbying efforts. PSRG is supposed to deal with short term, new issues. This has not been the case with the Eastern group and may lead to funding issues.

SoICAP Report – W. DeJong – Solanaceae Coordinated Agricultural Project – Improving and advancing the use of markers in breeding efforts. Develop an online course in marker assisted breeding. Primary objective is to develop single nucleotide polymorphic markers. Primary goal is to develop markers for important traits such as carbohydrate metabolism in order to enhance breeding efforts. Genotyping of 480 clones will be performed.
SCRI – G. Porter – Negative reviews included that fact that the proposal was for an expansion of ongoing activities, it wasn’t new enough. Proposal was not listed as a high priority. Criticisms, not enough stake holder involvement in project, Extension component was weak, Lack of social sciences component. Discussion about re-submitting for the next RFP. Adding nutrition subcomponent to strengthen the proposal, as well as other aspects to make it novel.

Site Reports

New Brunswick – Delayed growing season, volunteer potato problem, acreage down, late blight in July, shortage in supply

Maine – Similar weather conditions to New Brunswick, acreage down to around 54 thousand acres, smallest crop in many years. 265 cwt/a overall. Early frost hurt russet growers. Down 30% in fresh market sales from last year.

New Jersey – Dry June, Dry August, Good sales in chip stock, increasing pink rot, possible reduced efficacy of Ridomil, 2500 acres

Pennsylvania – Spring rains, dry summer

Virginia – Early rains in the spring, dry summer, fairly good market, heat tolerant Israeli cultivars will be included in Painter in 09

North Carolina – 15k acres, adequate moisture early, very dry mid season, yields down, good demand.

New York – 17k acres, lowest acreage in 60 years, dry spring, hail damage locally, no late blight, good demand and good yields.

Ohio – Below average yields across the board, good quality and demand, acreage has declined,

Industry Comments

Chris – The work is appreciated by the growers. Possibly conferencing in industry representatives from other states outside of the host state in order to participate in discussion of relevant topics in future meetings.

PVMI – Do we need a PVMI in the Eastern US. Enhancing the protection and commercialization of Eastern varieties. Who will maintain the MTA and licensing? Where will royalties go, what will they support. Updating the NE 1031 website to include successful releases from the Eastern breeding project. This highlight will show a picture and brief description of each variety.

Pathology Test Reports

Beltsville – trial highlight listed in USDA ARS summary report. Continued screenings for common scab and late blight resistance.

Maine – regional clones continue to be evaluated for bacterial ring rot expression, as well as examining suppression of pink rot in certain lines. Starting fusarium dry rot screening.
Pennsylvania – Screening for late blight resistance, early blight screening, powdery scab resistance. Results are in presented in state report.

Breeding Reports

USDA ARS – Continues investigation of high carotenoid content and late blight resistance.

Maine – Breeding process and highlights are listed in state report. Increasing breeding efforts for red skin types. Still try to maintain 50% breeding effort in russets. 30% white table stock. Continued screening for late blight resistance, 9 lines were found with resistance.

New York – NY 138, NY 139, NY 140 continue to be the most promising lines.

North Carolina – 15 thousand single hills were planted and around 3% were selected to move into 6 hill selection. Also continuing to screen for Colorado potato beetle resistance.

Virginia – Crossing of lines selected for high specific gravity with Israeli lines already selected for heat tolerance.

Shopping List – G. Porter

Beacon Chipper – Will remain for one more year of testing. Following year will not be replanted for seed in the NE 1031 trial. Results are fairly good. Slightly less yield than atlantic and less solids.

Blazer Russet – PVMI variety, some commercial interest in Maine. Good yields in Maine similar to russet Burbank. Mixed results in NC, good off station not good on station. Problems with secondary growth. Last year of testing in NE 1031.

Dakota Diamond – 7 trials in NC, good yield, solids near atlantic, chips variable, possible internal defects. Excellent yields in NJ, better gravity than Atlantic, and less heat necrosis. Better yields than atlantic in NY, slightly lower gravity, averages 23% hollow heart of 15 trials.

Dakota Jewel – Fair external defects in Maine, moderate skin discoloration. Fair results in NJ. 65% Chieftain in NY. Mixed results in NC, no better than other varieties. PA 110% standard with no internal issues. 2009 will be last year of testing.

Rio Grande Russet – Good looking in ME, yields variable, late, low to mid gravity. Hollow heart in NJ, 62% superior. 128% standard in PA, some hollow heart. NC yielded better than russet norkotah, lots of secondary growth. 67% hollow heart in PEI. Scheduled to be replanted one more year.

Premier russet – Possibly needs a longer season

A95109-1 – Looked good in ME, average gravity, good yield at 100 days, no supply in 09, will have seed in 2010. Good yields in NJ.

AF2291-10 – Good gravity and chip color from warm storage. Similar yields and gravity to atlantic. Seed going to commercial seed grower next year. Good performance in NC, yields slightly lower than Atlantic,
good chip score and gravity. Heat sprouts in NJ, NC, VA. 117% standard in PA. Poor appearance in southern areas.

AF 2376-5 – Very susceptible to IHN, late blight resistance, bruise resistance. 64% Atlantic in NJ, less IHN than atlantic. 107% standard and some internal browning in PA. Too susceptible to IHN to move forward.

AF2393-7 – Nice skin, occasionally netted, small. Average performance. Pale yellow flesh. Not strong enough to move forward. 58% chieftain in NY. Good appearance in OH. Finished testing in NE1031.

AF2413-4 – Too much secondary growth in NJ, IHN, lower gravity than superior. 93% atlantic in NY, average appearance. 110% standard in PA, some scab. Average performance average. To be dropped

AF2431-2 – Possible fresh market russet. Small size in ME, doesn’t fry well. No internal defects in NJ, low yields and small size, consistent secondary growth. Not impressive in OH. To be dropped.

AF2574-1 – Late, good yield, moderate late blight resistance. Poor appearance in NC. 140% standard in PA, appearance fair, lots of secondary growth and external defects. External defects in VA with good yield. Similar to atlantic in yield in NY.

B1992-106 – OK in NC, not impressive. 94% atlantic, gravity similar, better chipping, little IHN, little hollow heart. Good yielder in ME, fair appearance, good chip color. Similar performance in NC.

B2152-17 – Yields similar to DR norland, fair to good appearance. 73% superior, ok appearance. 131% standard, gravity 73 in PA. 70% chieftain in NY. Good yield and appearance in OH.

B2327-2 – Dropped

B2440-124 – Dropped

B2452-3 – Breeders choice for 09. Average performance in ME. Bad scab in NY, none in ME. Slight IHN in NJ, better yield than atlantic, lower gravity. Yields 80% atlantic in NC, chips good, some misshapen. Similar yields to atlantic with low gravity in OH. 139% standard in PA, appearance good, growth cracks.

B2460-3 – Dropped

B2485-2 – Dropped

BCO01306-2 – Red with purple/pink flesh. Excellent skin color in NJ, slightly netted in NJ and NY. Appearance and silver scurf problems in ME.

BCO01357-3 – Dropped

BCO01357-4 – Red skin, pink flesh. Silver scurf in NJ, 88% superior and similar gravity in NJ. 60% DR Norland in ME, late. 80% Chieftain, moderate levels of scab in NY.

BCO01401-2 – Dropped

BNC 41-13 – Breeders choice for 09. Round white netted chipper. 99% Atlantic, gravity lower, better chip, no hollow heart, no IHN. Similar performance in ME. 79% Atlantic, gravity similar, appearance fair, good chip scores, in NC.
BNC48-1 – Dropped

NY138 – Breeders Choice for 09. Round chipper, netted skin. Scab susceptible, low hollow heart and heat necrosis. 88% atlantic in NJ. 101% atlantic in NY, low external and internal defects, chips well out of storage. 89% atlantic, gravity 10pts less, appearance good. 132% standard, gravity 77, appearance good in PA. Slightly less yield than atlantic and 16 points less gravity in VA.

NY 139 – Chipper, 95% atlantic and slightly less gravity than atlantic in ME, chips well. 87% atlantic and better gravity, good chip, better than fair appearance, some IHN in NC. 100% atlantic, 88 gravity, few external defects, chips fair out of storage with reconditioning, soft rot may be an issue. 134% standard, gravity 79, no internal problems in PA.

NY 140 – Breeders choice in 09. ME good yields, moderate gravity, inconsistent chip. NC 114% atlantic, gravity 6 pts less, no major internal issues. Better yield than atlantic with lower gravity in PEI. 137% standard, gravity 73 in PA. 120% atlantic in NY.

NY 141 – Yields low in ME, inconsistent chipping scores. 85% atlantic, gravity 12 points less, secondary growth in NJ, appearance questionable. 87% atlantic, gravity 10 points less, no internal problems, no external. 117% atlantic, 80 gravity, few external and internal, no chipping out of storage. 123% standard, gravity 73, appearance fair in PA.

NYB38-37 – 93% atlantic, no hollow heart, some scab in NJ. 70 – 90% atlantic in ME, smooth skin, some scab. 94% atlantic, 9 points less gravity, acceptable chip, some scab in NC. 126% standard, gravity 72, fair appearance in PA. Chips out of field and storage in NY.

NYB38-40 – 75% atlantic, gravity less than superior, good appearance, no internal defects. 91% atlantic, gravity 13 points less, good appearance, some soft rot in NC. 102% atlantic, 72 gravity, few externals, now hollow heart, some scab, chips out of 45 degree storage.

Eastern Trial Summary and Publication – 2007 Summary has been sent out and should be up on the website shortly. Most 2008 reports are in and G. Porter will work on compiling the 2008 data.

AMMI analysis – Don Halseth – Don summarized the results from the AMMI analysis report he provided at the meeting.

NE1031 Website – M. Clough and D. Halseth – Mark exhibited some aspects of the website. Data sent to mark should be in his accepted template. Group has decided to change name on website in order to maximize the visibility of the website. Proposed name is Eastern Regional Potato Variety Development Group. The idea of using a commercial service to maintain and back up the website was discussed.

Old Business

Eastern PVMI Discussion – Questions on new methods of increasing the acceptance and use of new varieties.

SCRI Proposal – Moving forward with re-submission of the previous SCRI. Who will take the lead in re-submission.
Committee Reports

Site Selection Committee – The next meeting may be held in conjunction with the NPC meeting and expo. If this is not possible, New York has agreed to host meeting.

Resolutions – Thank Craig Yencho and Mark Clough for their hospitality and planning. Leslie for administering the meeting and Mark for development of the website.

Nominations – M. Kleinhenz will be secretary next year. Group votes to accept all committees’ reports.

Group votes to adjourn.

Resolutions

Whereas the annual NE1031 technical committee meeting has been a productive and enjoyable gathering of potato researchers and friends, let us resolve to;

Thank Craig Yencho and Mark Clough for their successful meeting accommodations, selection of excellent eateries in downtown Raleigh, and the warm weather in North Carolina.

Commend Leslie Wanner for her excellent leadership and guidance of a fruitful technical committee meeting.

Thank our project leader Kirby Stafford for his insight and advice in how to accomplish project goals.

Be it further noted that we commend Mark Clough’s expertise and efforts in developing a state of the art website which makes our project objectives and information available to the potato community.