



Welcome to the 2009/10 season. The newsletter has been sent out earlier than previously to advise of key changes from last season aimed at ensuring continuing improvement to the quality of New Zealand potatoes.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT NZ GAP

New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) is a quality assurance programme that provides a traceable, accountable system for fruit, vegetables, olives and flowers.

In the marketplace, accreditation to a quality assurance programme is increasingly a condition of supply; GAP gives you that. It also adds to the traceability and quality assurance requirements of the seed potato certification scheme.

Potatoes New Zealand and the New Zealand Seed Potato Certification Authority are working together to ensure all growers producing certified seed are registered for NZ GAP before 31 October 2009. We're aiming for approval to be finalised before 31st October 2010.

What are the benefits to you?

- Providing customers with assurance that your produce is safe
- Proof that you're committed to food safety, environmental and quality assurance
- Support from all major fresh produce retailers and wholesalers in New Zealand, by making accreditation as an Approved Supplier a condition of market access
- Support from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority
- Use of GAP logos and promotional material for your own marketing
- Reassuring overseas retailers that you are committed to good agricultural practice
- Having a useful management tool to bring together processes, policies and regulatory requirements
- Improving business practices, and
- Saving time and money.

GAP is run by Horticulture NZ. More information can be found online at: www.newzealandgap.co.nz

A flow chart of the registration process and application form are included with this newsletter.

FEES FOR THE COMING SEASON:

The fee structure must ensure the certification scheme covers its costs. The new fee structure and payment process brought in 2 years ago has simplified this objective.

The fee for this season will be **\$220 per hectare (excluding GST)**. Payment of this is 50% with application and 50% on May 31st 2010.

The payment form is included with this newsletter.

SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS.

The 2009/10 forms are enclosed with this newsletter. Please contact Evan Johnston if you have any queries or need further copies. The planting plan box on the back of the form last year has proved very useful so continues with this year's form. Where there are multiple plantings in one paddock, please indicate the planting positions in this plan box. BUT, there still needs to be markers put in the paddock!!!!

Please remember to enter the IVA you have chosen for the PCN/Wart compliance programme. ALL certified seed crops must be entered into the programme (rule 16).

The closing date of 21 days after planting continues. Please remember, growers with an extended planting period will need to send in their applications for early sown crops before all sowings have been completed. For those in this situation, please send the payment summary and fees DIRECT to the Seed Bureau after your last planting. Acceptance of late seed certification entries is at the discretion ofASUREQuality and SGS. A certification tag from each seedline entered must be included with your completed application.

NEW RULES AND RULE CHANGES

New Rule 17 – this is to ensure leaf sampling is done on all high generation crops. The rule reads: Variety agents are required to collect leaf samples from all G2 planted crop entries for virus testing. There will be a leaf sampling technique put onto the Potatoes NZ web site. A copy of the result must be provided to the inspection agency.

Rule 20 (formerly 19) - this has been redrafted to ensure final inspections are completed as close to defoliation as is possible. The rule now reads:
'There is a minimum of two inspections for each line entered. The first inspection is as early as is practical and the second as late as is practical and applicable for the variety concerned. Two inspection varieties will require a third inspection where the defoliation of the crop is likely to be more than 14 days after the second inspection. Growers with crops in this situation must contact the inspection agency within 14 days of defoliation to arrange for the third inspection to be completed as close as is practical to defoliation. The varieties, Red King Edward, Jersey Bennes, Russet Burbank and Russet Ranger require three inspections.

Rule 27 (formerly 26) – this has had a word change and now reads:
Growers must maintain a documented procedure for a tuber inspection system for monitoring the quality and certification standard of seed tubers during grading. The Authority has developed a guide for growers to follow. This guide will be available on the Potato NZ web site.

PROPOSED FIELD DAY

It is proposed to run a field day in late November (26th). Some of the topics we are looking to cover are leaf sampling, using the Potatoes NZ web site, QA tuber grading and the NZ GAP programme. Further information will be sent out later. The web address for Potatoes NZ is: <http://www.potatoesnz.co.nz/>
There is a lot of information on the site so make sure you visit regularly.

ASUREQuality Seed Bureau Staff Changes:

We have had a recent staff change. Sarah Howey is now with the Bureau. Contact details for the Bureau are:
Seed Certification Bureau, ASUREQuality Limited, PO Box 6, Lincoln University, Lincoln, CANTERBURY.
Fax (03) 325 7088

Staff		Work Phone	Cell Phone	Home Phone
Evan	Johnston Seed Industry Manager	(03) 358 1745	021 441 713	(03) 312 0037
Carole	Lasseter	(03) 358 1723		
Sarah	Howey	(03) 358 1713		

SGS Potato Certification Inspections Services

SGS New Zealand Limited

Christchurch: PO Box 8032, Riccarton, CHRISTCHURCH.

Cyril Hickman Inspections Co-ordinator
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Stephen Sullivan	Inspector	(03) 688 4079	0275 516 224
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