

# Michigan Seed Potato Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

November 5, 2018

Greenstone Farm Credit – East Lansing, MI

9 AM – Meeting begin

## Attendees:

Robin Rosenbaum

Elizabeth Dorman

Brian Potter

Jeff Thorlund

Mike Wenkel

Jeff Axford

Greg Iott

Jaime Wilbur

## Act Language

- More precise act language to be determined at a later time.

## Seed Potatoes to Plant per Acre

- Robin – Need to define amount of seed potatoes to plant per acre.
- Mike – Necessity to define “seed sufficient to plant per acre.”

## Grower Requests for Exceptions

- Grower will be required to keep certification documents on their property for two years to support it.
- In agreement that we need a general requirement that it must have started in the certified process.

## General Requirements – Number 2 “Exceptions for the grower carries over to the distributor”

- Exemption would be for the grower and not for the seed.
- Under the law, the commercial grower would be requesting the exemption which carries to the person buying from them.

## Research Requirements

- Mike – Seed would be coming from another university – anything with an MTA between universities for research purposes. Anything going through the Natl. chip trials would be certified seed.
- Checkbox for research needed on the form for request of exemption.
- Conditions for research exceptions to be put under General Requirements – Number 4
- Addition of affiliation/company/farm information spot on the application instead of name and address – Jaime

## General Requirements, (B) “Application Requirements for seed potatoes planted under Exception”

- Decided no deadline at this time for submission and can always add a deadline later on if applications get out of control.
- Jeff A – Shipping point inspection results would not be available for most of this process.
  - Should this be somewhere else other than right here in requirements. A better place for it.
- Addition to requirement wording, “must have contacted minimum of 3 to 4 growers to source certified seed for that variety and show proof of contact.”

### Advisory Committee Recommended Criteria for Exception Application Approval

- Need to address insufficient supply as it is not in the law.
- Need to think about economic Impact to the neighboring potato farms.

### (C) Requirements for Sampling, and Testing; Disease Standards for Seed Potatoes grown under an exception pursuant to Act 94

- A or B, 400-tuber grow out, or grower completes the certification process.
- REMOVE “no tolerance for late blight in the field C. 3. (i)”
- 400-tuber sample needs to be tested for ring rot and late blight, sprouts also need to be tested.
- Tuber test results will come to advisory committee for review
- Tuber sample up front so the samples go through testing process quicker and committee gets results faster.
- If they haven’t gone through post-harvest test, we need a sample.

### C. 3. “Seed potatoes an exception granted by the director shall not exceed the following disease standards.”

Correct wording to, “seed potatoes granted an exception by the director will consider the following disease standards.”

#### C.3.(ii) Removal of regulation 628

#### C.3.(iii) Maintain testing history wording.

Jaime – Will ask for Dave’s entire research process with tissue cultures for testing varieties.

#### Changing the wording for C. 2.(i)

1. “The grower must provide a 400-tuber sample for seed lots that would plant 1 acre or more
2. The grower must provide a 200-tuber sample for seed lots planted for less than 1 acre

With the name of the grower, cultivar name and source of the cultivar to the MDARD plant pathology laboratory.”

### Decided upon random selection of Potato Growers for Records Review

#### Fee Schedule for Services Performed by the Department

- Need to look into other acts to see how violators are addressed and charged.
- The advisory committee will not have any part in an investigation.
- Decided that scheduling of fees needs work to ensure compliance.

### Beginning January 2021, seed potatoes in combined seed lot that are sufficient to plant one or more acres may be planted as certified seed.

- Jeff A – 40 cwt would be more of a cushion instead of 50 cwt.

In agreement that the following information to be used by advisory committee to approve or deny request of exception is reasonable:

- Proximity to seed potato production

- Levels and types of disease
- Impact to neighboring potato farms
- Impact to the applicant

### Definitions

“Grow” and “plant” definitions will be something for the lawyer to determine.

“Registered grower” means a person who has notified the director of their intent to grow potatoes in this state in combined seed lots of one acre or more.

Request for rule making has been halted due to the questions with definitions.

### Steps for Next Meeting

Mike W and Jamie to consult with Dave regarding research purposes.

Robin and Elizabeth will meet with Brad with the questions for him from today.

Hoping to have a draft by January 2019.

Next meeting to be determined, potentially by email.

Public hearing in Lansing would be sufficient.

Potential Meeting at the winter conference in the first week of December.

Meeting adjourned 1:30 PM