

Northwest Potato Research Consortium

A Cooperative Effort of the Potato Commissions of ID, OR, & WA

Andy Jensen, Manager (ajensen@potatoes.com; 509-760-4859)

Research Review Plans for Fall 2017 – Winter 2018 &

Request for Concept Proposals

{It is important to read the entire document before submitting concept proposals.}

In February 2012 the state potato commissions in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon officially launched a new cooperative effort in research. One aim of this initiative is to increase cooperation and efficiency of the research/extension programs funded by the three potato commissions that total about \$2 million annually. A second aim is to facilitate competitive federal grants for potato research in the Northwest. Potato production across the region is substantially similar and faces similar research gaps. For the *fifth* time, a majority of this research funding will be allocated through a cooperative 3-commission research review process during the fall-winter of 2017-18. A nine-member Consortium board will review research and make funding recommendations to the commissions.

One goal of the Consortium is to encourage collaboration across state borders and across disciplines. The Consortium recognizes that this transition will take time and effort, and intends to work cooperatively with the research community to achieve this goal. When considering preparing a joint proposal, please be sure that the proposed work is truly collaborative, i.e. all parties are working together toward an agreed-to set of goals with agreed-to objectives and methods. Finally, the Consortium recognizes that some research is best handled by a single lab or scientist, and is interested in teams and collaboration only where such are the best fit.

Scope

The Consortium funds research in all aspects of potato production, breeding/variety development/genetics, and storage, and is open to considering research in food product development, processing, etc. All persons contemplating suggesting a new project to us should consult the list of funded projects posted here: <http://nwpotatoresearch.com/> to avoid proposing something that conflicts with or duplicates existing research. We welcome scientists new to the region or to our funding to engage with us. A good first step is to contact Consortium Manager Dr. Andy Jensen about how your expertise might best fit the research needs of the potato industry. Other valuable sources of guidance and input on research ideas are the established potato research and extension scientists across the region.

Extension-specific projects currently funded by the potato commissions continue to be 1-state projects and will not be subject to Consortium review. Each commission will have a mechanism in place for review and approval of such extension funding.

The commissions agree that all projects that are primarily research must be submitted through the Consortium process, as described below. This is true regardless of how that project was ultimately funded/handled during the past four years. If it is primarily research, it must come through our 3-state Consortium process.

Time-line for fall/winter of 2017-18

Fall research planning discussions.

Dates: October 23-24, 2017

Location: Boise, Idaho; Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport

Format: Industry members from each state will be present *and will be scoring each concept proposal*. These industry members are invited by the state potato commissions and represent growers, processors, chemical registrants and distributors, consultants, etc. Scientists will be scheduled to present their concept proposals, without visual aids such as PowerPoint, and answer questions from the group. Projects on similar topics will be grouped on the agenda to the extent possible. Each concept proposal discussion will be 10-15 minutes.

Schedule: One and a half days. Due to the meeting beginning on Monday, the schedule of presentations will begin with project leaders who are most local to Boise. Beyond that constraint, we will focus most of Monday on pest management topics, with all other topics mostly on Tuesday morning.

Purpose and intent: The aim is to have discussion among all present, i.e. scientists and industry members, about each concept proposal. All discussions will be actively facilitated. Following the discussions, the Consortium board will arrive at decisions regarding projects, teams, and ideas that will be expanded into full proposals for Consortium consideration in January.

Concept proposals: Scientists, as cooperating teams where appropriate, will put together brief project idea documents (2 pages max, format below) describing their team and their project objectives and rationale. All projects must have attending representative(s) who will lead off discussion of the projects. As always, there is no guarantee that continuing projects will be funded. All concept proposals are due to Andy Jensen (ajensen@potatoes.com) by noon on October 2. The concept proposals will be provided to Consortium members and other industry attendees. An agenda for the meeting will be circulated on or about October 6. For those unable to attend in person, remote attendance will be arranged using Adobe Connect, Skype, or similar, which requires a webcam, or at least a microphone, on your computer.

Outcome: Within a few days after the meeting, project leads will be informed of the Consortium's desire to see a full proposal.

Full proposal deadline: December 15, 2017 (by midnight).

Via e-mail to ajensen@potatoes.com. Proposal format, instructions, and review criteria will be sent directly to principal investigators invited to submit full proposals.

January, 2017: Individual potato commission research committees will review written full proposals and develop a ranking for later consideration by the Consortium board.

January 26, Kennewick: Final Consortium proposal review.

Consortium members will review written proposals and base funding recommendations upon

them. No presentations by scientists will be required.

Funding announcements (tentatively): following the March meetings of the three commission boards of directors.

Reporting requirements for funded projects: will be distributed with award notifications in the Spring, and a separate document posted at <http://nwpotatoresearch.com/>.

Concept Proposal Submitted to the Potato Research Consortium (2 pages maximum length)

Title:

The title of the project should be as informative as possible, yet brief.

Year Initiated: xxxx. Current Year: 2018-19. Terminating Year xxxx.

(Use a fiscal year format for years – 201X-1X. The period shown under "Year Initiated" would thus be the period that funding was first received for the project. The "Terminating Year" is the last period for which funding will be requested under the project; ongoing projects funded for many years should indicate so using the word “ongoing” here.)

Personnel & Cooperators:

Provide names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all those listed here. You are welcome to create a table of personnel involved. Specifically identify those who will be funded to do work on this project and those who will cooperate without being funded.

Funding Request for 2017-18:

Please give a total estimated request for this project for the coming year. Do not attempt to show the cost for each Commission or any other breakdown of costs.

Introduction: Problem Statement, Research Question(s) & Justification:

Avoid unnecessary introductions to potato production, importance of the crop, etc. Provide a statement that clearly defines the problem being addressed by your research and the rationale for this project. Include clear and thorough arguments regarding how the proposed work will build on existing knowledge, previous research, and existing literature on the subject. Cite existing literature; no need for a literature cited section in this document, but one will be expected for all invited full proposals. Be sure to search the “grey literature” as well, which was sometimes the only way previous commission-funded work was published (e.g. try the research library at <http://www.nwpotatoresearch.com/>). Where appropriate, state how this project relates to other ongoing work in the Northwest. If this is a partially-complete multi-year project, please update this section of the concept proposal based on, and framed within, your results to date. Figures and photographs are encouraged.

Hypothesis & Objectives:

Provide specific objectives that will address your core hypotheses and can realistically be accomplished during the project period. Which objectives will be addressed during this funding year (i.e. during 2018-2019)? If this is a partially-complete multi-year project, be sure to update the objectives section to reflect what has been accomplished so far, and any changes to continuing objectives that were warranted or mandated by that progress.

Collaboration:

Briefly describe the role to be played by each scientist, and the communication plan among the cooperators.