

**SpudPro Committee Meeting
November 2, 2023
Storage Research Facility, Hancock**

Present: Chairman Mike Copas, Jeff Endelman, Larry Alsum, Yi Wang, Tamas Houlihan, Joe Kertzman, Emily Bauer, Gary Bula, Troy Fishler, Amber Walker, Becky Eddy, Cody Bandoch, Josie Spurgeon, Julie Braun

Virtual: Mac Bean, Brooke Babler, Nicole Nichol, John Petty

Chairman Mike Copas called the meeting to order 1:06 p.m.

The minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

M/S/P J. Endelman, A. Walker

To approve the minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting as presented.

Russets

Discussion about Portage Russet

- Bushman's Riverside Ranch and Bula Potato Farms growing FY3 seed from SpudPro program. High incidence of hollow heart, but low severity, reported by Bushman's.
- Yi Wang shared results from Agronomic Trial. Portage Russet tied "Bonn" (McCain code) for highest yields but 40% hollow heart observed with low severity.
- Brooke Babler & Cody Bandoch reported on foundation seed in the pipeline. Harvested 5.2 cwt of FY1 and approximately 3000 minitubers, but neither Bula or Bushman's have expressed interest yet in more seed.
- Nicole Nichol relayed that McCain Foods is continuing to evaluate commercial potential for Portage Russet.

Discussion about W13008-1rus

- 2023 results from Agronomic and Breeding Trials in Hancock confirmed discussion from previous years. W13008-1rus had lower set and yields; was in the same group as Reveille and Vanguard. Appears resistant to hollow heart.
- Higher yields observed at Starks Farm and Breeding Farm in Rhinelander. Starks Farm harvested 5.7 cwt of FY1 seed and 17 lb minitubers.
- Not competitive with Caribou Russet as early russet.

M/S/P J. Endelman, A. Walker

To discontinue seed for W13008-1rus and drop from the SpudPro program.

Discussion about CW08221-5rus

- SpudPro minitubers were produced in 2017, but due to concerns about heavy russetting, the line was dropped in 2018
- Mike Copas from WPF still saw opportunity on sandy soils where russetting does not express as well. He ordered new seed for larger trials: 8 acres in 2022, 83 acres in 2023. Packout data looked good, with high yields for large carton size.
- Potential replacement for Norkotah? Larry Alsum commented this is still an important need for fresh market. More information about storability of CW08221-5rus is needed.
- Mike Copas does not see need for additional seed through SpudPro at this time; there is enough at Eagle River.

M/S/P L. Alsum, J. Endelman

For SpudPro to cover the \$500 cost of Hancock SRF box bin trial for CW08221-5rus.

Yellows

Discussion about W13103-2Y

- Continued to show good yields and size from Agronomic and Breeding Trials at Hancock. Comparable to many other yellows in commercial production (e.g., Colomba, Agata).
- Similar to previous years, no significant response to nitrogen observed in the yellow trial, indicating higher N use efficiency
- Appears resistant to scab and hollow heart
- Some commented on lenticel appearance
- Performed well at Starks Farm (454 cwt/a), generating 250 cwt of FY2 seed. We should use some of the extra seed for commercial trials in 2024.
- Larry Alsum and Gary Bula said they would grow 1 acre trials

M/S/P L. Alsum, G. Bula

To fund the difference between the going rate of yellow seed vs. the FY2 price from the Starks Farm.

Reds

- Yi reported Agronomic Trial results for W17005-3R, W16025-5R and W17026-4R with Red Prairie as the control. All three had darker skin color but smaller size profile compared to Red Prairie.
- Jeff is not recommending any for SpudPro due to smaller size

Specialties

- Jeff shared information about two specialty lines being commercialized. Two varieties (AW08112-4P/Y and W16050-3P/Y) with similar appearance (purple skin/yellow flesh) are being considered for release as “Indigold.” A unique fingerling W17036-2YR/Wfing with yellow skin and deeper eyes with red splash is headed toward variety release as “Andi” or “Andy” because it resembles Andean potato.

Other New Business

- Discussion about how to best disseminate information from variety trials. Amber Walker has goal to utilize Medius.Re website but for now will save PDFs to the Hancock ARS website. All Grower Education Conference proceedings are posted on the Grower Ed website—we may need to make this more widely available and advertise it more frequently.
- The group reviewed and updated the SpudPro Long Range Plan. This will be considered and voted on at the WPVGA Long Range Planning Meeting in December.

M/S/P L. Alsum, J. Endelman

To adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie Braun
Executive Assistant