

The Potatoes USA National Chip Program continues to vet candidates with an objective of identifying new, optimal chipping varieties.

Industry Effort

One of the major components of the National Chip Program is the level of involvement needed to create success in the program. The program requires a true industry effort amongst seed growers, commercial growers, trial cooperators, breeders, and scientists. The program involves:

- **Thirteen Universities** that provide candidates, test for diseases, or run trial sites
- **Twenty Five Trial Locations** that provide the opportunity to test candidates in all the major chip growing regions
- **Twelve Breeders**, either from the Universities or ARS
- **Six Chip Processors** who provide their time in their plants to help evaluate the candidates
- **Eighteen Chip Qualities** tracked for evaluation
- **Ten Seed and Commercial Growers** that provide time and acreage for later stage trails

Variety Selection Meeting to See Changes

During the 2021 December Variety Selection Meeting in Chicago, Potatoes USA opened the discussion to include feedback from growers, researchers, breeders, and processors. Members of the National Chip Program emphasized a desire to focus more discussion on candidates in NCPT-2 and SNAC. Additionally, a decision was made to pass EGSS candidates through the system without a formal vote, providing fair opportunity to all entering candidates. However, EGSS totals will still be calculated for data and tracking purposes.

Breeding Programs in the NCP

Below includes the 12 leading breeders and institutions in the NCP.



Potatoes USA's mission

Strengthen Demand for U.S. Potatoes

National Chip Program Objective

In 2008, two variety development goals were identified: Snowden replacement for storage and Atlantic replacement for out-of-the-field producers. The Snowden replacement would have better color later in storage while the Atlantic replacement would be less susceptible to heat necrosis.

Over 593,869 NCP data records in the cutting-edge analytics system accessible via Medius.Re

Key Traits of Chip Varieties

- Yield
- Quality Traits
 - Solids
 - Chip Color
 - Low Defects
 - Shape/Appearance
 - Early Bulking and/or Long-Term Storage
- Scab Resistance
- Long-Term Storage Quality
- Internal Heat Necrosis (IHN) Resistance

Breeding Programs in the NCP

- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- University of Maine
- Michigan State University
- University of Minnesota
- North Carolina State University
- North Dakota State University
- Oregon State University
- Texas A&M University
- USDA-ARS (2 – Idaho & Maryland/Maine)
- University of Wisconsin

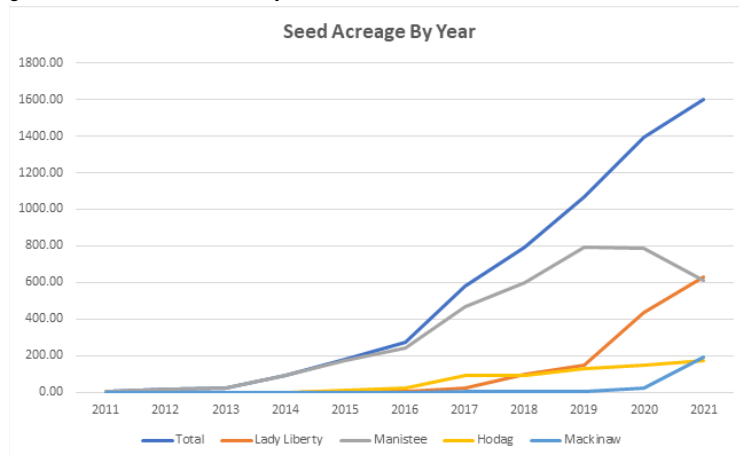
Potatoes USA National Chip Program 2021 Overview

New Maryland Site in the Works

At the request of the steering committee, a new Maryland site will be added to the trialing system for deeper data collection. The addition will help better determine varieties with viability in harsher climates with early candidate information on early bulking and resistance to heat necrosis. At this point, planning has begun between Black Gold Farms, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, and a representative from USDA-ARS. Coordination has been done to utilize this site for this year's NCPT Tier 1 candidates.

Seed Distribution by Year

Below demonstrates seed acreage by year of leading candidates that generates from the NCP system.



*Lamoka and Waneta finished their testing in the NCP trial system, so NCP cannot take full credit for their emergence as commercial varieties. As of 2021, the seed acreage dedicated to Lamoka and Waneta was 29,956+.

Chip Industry Members Respond to Consumers

For both fresh and storage varieties, focus evolves over time dictated by the end-market. Consumers in the potato chip industry continually adapt their potato chip desires, requiring industry members to adjust variety specifications. Feedback from consumers in 2021 indicates a growing preference for snack bags, and NCPT members responded, requesting a change in candidate specifications to aim for smaller specifications in relation to size. The adaptation of industry members demonstrates how quickly and efficiently NCPT members work to satisfy consumer preferences.

Hybrid Meetings a Constant

Hybrid meetings have become the norm throughout the working world, and Potatoes USA has adapted to this change. Hybrid meetings have allowed for a large number of attendees while travel restrictions apply. The hybrid model has allowed for a large turnout to meetings, including the December Variety Selection Meeting in which 27 separate companies were represented.

New Grower Representatives on the Steering Committee

Three votes were taken at the Grower Meeting, identifying two new and one returning Committee Members. Congratulations to the following:

- **Karl Ritchie** (Walther Farms) is to join the grower representatives
- **John Halverson** (Black Gold Farms) is to join the grower representatives
- **Tom Prasalowicz** (Heartland Farms) is to serve another year as Chair

A thank-you is owed to our current committee members for their dedication:

- Brian Sackett (Sackett Potatoes)
- Matt Maughan (CSS Farms)
- Gene Herr (Herr's Foods)
- Jake Lake (Snyder's-Lance/Campbell's)
- Jim Fitzgerald (Utz)
- Phil Gusmano (Better Made)

The Chip Steering Committee oversees strategy, operations, and administration of NCP. Committee members, technical advisors, and consultants convene three times a year to select new varieties, evaluate and mitigate problems, and establish new priorities.

2022 Variety Selection Meeting in the Works

The 2022 Variety Selection Meeting will occur December 6 and 7 in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting will occur at the Hyatt Place Chicago O'Hare, the same location as 2021.

Trial Candidate Information

Trials	Candidates	# of Trials
EGSS	500	1
NCPT 1 & 2	125/31	12
SNAC	12	12