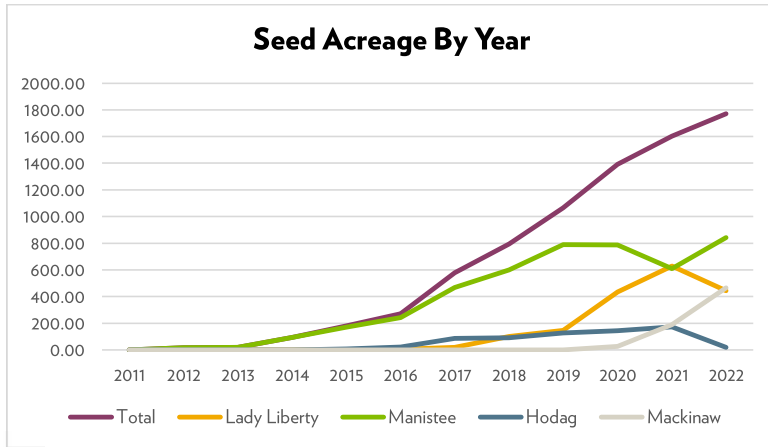


The Potatoes USA National Chip Program continues to vet candidates with an objective of identifying new, optimal chipping varieties.



*With some debate regarding which candidates started in the NCP system, Potatoes USA contacted the breeders of each variety to determine which candidates to fully credit to 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. In 2022, the seed acreage dedicated to Lamoka and Waneta was 5,020+.

2022 Variety Selection Meeting Representation in Chicago

The 2022 Variety Selection Meeting has increased its representation from previous years. 35 organizations were in attendance, with majority of attendees participating in-person. Attendees included processors, growers, breeders, University members, Potatoes USA members, NCP partners, and interested members. A full slate of NCPT1, NCPT2, SNAC and NexGen candidates were reviewed and advancement decisions were made.

SNAC Technical Committee Remains Up-To-Date

The SNAC Technical Committee continues to work hard keeping up with industry requests for optimal chip qualities. The Committee has previously generated a two-page Potato Attribution Sheet to identify needs of the industry in making variety selections. The Committee works hard to remain up-to-date with industry standards and requested. Specifications include targets and ranges for size, specific gravity, internal defects, external qualities, as well as a variety of diverse variety attributes.

Introduced at the 2022 Chicago meeting and continuing the discussion at the 2023 January meeting in Colorado, members requested the SNAC Technical Committee to explore a better definition of optimal size variation. A second request to define the best specification for assessing black spot bruising was also made. The SNAC Technical Committee will meet to quantify and revise these requests to better shape decisions for varieties within the NCP.

In 2022, 1,770+ total acres of NCP commercial varieties (Lady Liberty, Manistee, Hodag, and Mackinaw) have been planted.

National Chip Program Objectives

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.

Changes to January National Chip Program Meeting

The National Chip Program traditionally hosts its annual January meeting at the NPC Potato Expo, bringing together industry members for the convention and the program meeting. Hosted in Aurora, Colorado, the 2023 Potato Expo was held the first week of January. The discussion at the NCP meeting at Expo focused on later-stage candidates. The strengths and weaknesses of each were reviewed, including storage results, pathology testing, and key agronomic insights.

Before the meeting, extensive plans were made regarding available seed and which grower/processor partnerships would test each later-stage candidate. These linkages provide key insights on both agronomic and processing results. This is a key strength of the NCP system – Gaining knowledge on candidate performance in a real-world environment. Thanks to all the growers and processing companies contributing land and in-plant access.

Feedback was acquired from members to move the January meeting from Monday to Tuesday night. The timeline allows for members to utilize Monday for travel while avoiding interfering with Potatoes USA meetings during the day on Tuesday... And we listened! The next NPC Potato Expo is to be held in Austin, Texas during the second week of January 2024.

The NCP Adopts New Fingerprinting SOP

The NCP has generated and adopted a new fingerprinting standard operating procedure to ensure all later stage candidates in the trial system are genetically tested and documented annually. This ensures all candidates have the same candidates as the developer's submission clone. This formalized process will guarantee that the correct germplasm is being tested at all levels of the commercialization process.

Potatoes USA National Chip Program 2022 Overview

Thank You to Our Processor and Trial Partners



Welcome to Marcio Resende

The University of Florida introduces a new breeder into the National Chip Program – Marcio Resende. Marcio and his team will soon add candidates into the program, providing new clones to trial in the program. The NCP is excited to work with Marcio and his team!

Breeding Programs in the NCP

The map below includes the 13 leading breeders and institutions in the NCP.



Thank You to Gene Herr

Gene Herr moves into retirement from Herr's. We thank Gene for his participation and involvement with the National Chip Program. Gene has been involved with trialing candidates since the 80s, predating the National Chip Program. His involvement with NCP has been since the very beginning. Gene will pass off the reigns to Ellis Cole. The NCP would like to welcome you, Ellis!

Welcome to James Lowell

James Lowell has been accepted as the newest Steering Committee member for the National Chip Program, representing Campbell's. James joined the committee in August and has been an involved member of the committee. The NCP is excited to keep working with James.

Additional Partner Appreciation

We would like to provide an additional thank-you to the Michigan Potato Industry Commission (MPIC) and the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) for the National Chip Program's use of their research storage facilities. Key insights are gained on optimal storage protocols for later-stage candidates by varying storage temperatures. Insights are gained on whether a candidate is a short-term, mid-term, or long-term storage candidate.

The use of these research facilities have been a vital addition to the program. Thank you to these organizations, their staff, and their continued support!

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 Florida
- University of Wisconsin