

NB Yield Challenge

HISTORY

- Established Industry
- Farm/Field Size
- Variability
- Competitiveness
- Trend Line Yields

NBPITI

- Steering Committee
- Project Leader
- Soil & Water Management
- Seed Improvement
- Science & Technology
- Economics

INITIAL STEPS

- Discussions with “Influencers”
- Planting Tour – Manitoba & Alberta
- - Seed Management
- - Rotation
- - Soil Management
- - Fertility Programs
- - Zone Management



ACTIVITIES

- Goal is to focus on 'Continuous Improvement'
- Connecting people
- Importance of yield improvement
 - - researchers
 - - all stakeholders (input suppliers etc)

Soil & Water Group

- Soil Health - Organic Matter
 - - Compost Trials
 - - Crop Rotation
 - - Cover Crops – in season
 - - Compaction
 - - Deep Tillage
 - - in season, inter row tillage
 - - Compaction Workshop

Soil & Water

- - New methods of primary tillage
- - Evaluation of Veris mapping
- - Soil Fumigation - Chemical, natural
- - Drainage, Soil Conservation
- - Irrigation

Seed Improvement

- Seed Class Comparison
- Seed handling/management
 - - pre-conditioning
 - - spacing, mother seed profile
 - - cutting, bruising
- CIPC Sensitivity
- Seed Specific Gravity **
- AAFC Breeding Program

Science & Technology

- Establishing a data base for yield zones
- Soil Biology – it's importance in our conditions
- Precision Ag - zone management
 - - Veris Evaluation
 - - Drone surveillance
 - - Yield monitors - variability

Economics

- AAFC Potato Farm Profitability Analysis
- Economic Analysis of NB growers to identify BMP's

VARIABILITY

Within Fields

Between Farms

Between Seasons

Communication

- Meeting of Influencers
- Potato Conference
- Grower meetings- McCain and PNB

ARGENTINA

- What we saw....
- Land
- Yields – 400 – 500 cwt/ac
- Potential Yield - > 600 cwt/ac
- Facing similar challenges of global competitiveness
- This is everywhere and will not end!

Key Lessons

- Plant Stands , Plants/Acre,
- Seed Management - E1 planted
 - - Mother seed size
 - - Seed Storages
- Price seed based on quality
- Uniform, early emergence

Land Selection

- Select potato land based on set criteria
- Long rotations, 5-7 years
- Reduced Tillage on rotation crops
- High Organic Matter, 4-6 %

Technology

- Irrigation – not as advanced as NA yet
- Storage - increasing capacity now
- Precision Ag – Satellite Imagery
 - - Zone management
 - - Variable Rate Application
- These are just being introduced !!!!!

SUMMARY

- Soil Health – covers many things
- Seed Improvement – quality, quality, quality
- Technology – will accelerate
- Research – is needed to tie it all together

THE KEY

- ATTITUDE - we will improve by more people focusing on a common goal, being willing to try new things, paying more attention to details.

THANK YOU

