



Leading Potato Growers Into The Future  
**NEWSLETTER — Volume 5 Issue 3**

JULY 2010

## United responds to lawsuit accusations

In a letter to United members on June 24, President/CEO Lee Frankel urged United members to support a strong defense against allegations in an antitrust lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Idaho on June 18. A second lawsuit alleging antitrust violations has since been filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

“By working together, growers can preserve their right to have access to the same quality and depth of information as buyers of their products,” said Frankel. “We must prevail so that you can create a sustainable business for yourself and your family.”

The letter and two question-and-answer documents with more details

are posted on the United password-protected website under “Announcements.” Meetings with United’s legal advisors are being held to determine the next steps. At United’s July board meeting, Frankel will present a proposal regarding potential costs and proposed defense strategies.

In a prepared statement, the national office told media that the case is not well founded and United is confident that the defendants will prevail. The statement explained that United Potato Growers of America is an agricultural cooperative which was organized under and lives by the provisions, the spirit and the intent of the Capper-Volstead Act. The act provides immunity for cooperatives and their members from

antitrust laws. The statement said that United is careful and diligent to ensure that it is in full compliance with the law.

United will keep members informed as much as possible while balancing communication with the need to build and maintain an effective legal strategy. Contact any staff member at the national office should you have questions. The office number is 801-517-9000.

To learn more about the Capper-Volstead Act and farmer cooperatives, visit the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives online at [www.ncfc.org](http://www.ncfc.org). United, which is a member, has notified the NCFC of the lawsuits. 🌱

## Potato pipeline begins to clear

Shipments of all types of fresh market potatoes fell 2.6 percent below the three-year average for the four weeks ending June 26.

Shipments have been at or above the three-year average for most of the past year. Supplies are estimated to be below or near the three-year average for most of the next eight weeks.

These supply conditions should indicate the possibilities of stronger prices for the coming weeks.

United members can visit the Consolidated Shipping Forecast page on the password-protected area of the United website for the complete, detailed charts at [www.unitedpotatousa.com](http://www.unitedpotatousa.com). 🌱

Photography courtesy of Dr. Phillip Wharton, University of Idaho Extension.



A. Botrytis grey mold  
(Botrytis cinerea)



B. Brown leaf spot  
(Alternaria alternata)



C. Early blight  
(Alternaria solani)

## Melanie Likes takes the prize

The submitted correct answers were few and far between, but Melanie Likes, general partner, Esplin & Sons Farms in Shelley, Idaho, has won the name-that-disease contest drawing announced in the May newsletter. A \$100 Cabela's gift card provided by Bayer CropScience was mailed to her. Likes is a member of United Potato Growers of Idaho.

Participants shouldn't feel badly about submitting any incorrect answers. Foliar diseases are challenging to diagnose, which was the point of the Bayer CropScience article that was printed with the photos of three diseased plants. The correct answers are listed below the photos. 🌱

## United Acreage counting is completed

The 2010 potato acreage counting program has concluded with field teams mapping in Idaho, Colorado, Klamath Basin, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.

Based on the United acreage counts, Idaho's planted acreage is down 7.7 percent and Washington's is down

7.8 percent from 2009 plantings. The United count in Oregon shows that acreage outside of the Klamath Basin is down 9 percent. Colorado reports a 500-acre decline in fall potato area plantings based on the aerial flyover, which will be confirmed by a ground verification that allows for potato plants to reach a greater maturity,

thus allowing for better identification.

In addition to work by each cooperative's staff and contractors, coordination is being handled by the national office and the University of Utah Geography Department. United's acreage counting is based on the U.S. Global Positioning System

*Acreage count, continued on page 3*



*Acreage count, continued from page 2*

and computer mapping software. In the National Agricultural Statistical Service potato acreage estimate report released July 9, 2010, NASS reported its fall acreage estimate at 896,100 acres, which is down 4.5 percent from 2009. United counts by county in Idaho, Washington and the non-Klamath area of Oregon all indicate a reduction of close to 8 percent.

United estimates that acreage in Oregon increased in the Klamath area as a result of a shift from acres in Northern California, which show a sharp decline in acreage. The United and NASS counts in these areas are very close to each other.

NASS reported small declines in Colorado's San Luis Valley and in Wisconsin and an increase of 7,000 acres for North Dakota.

If processing use of potatoes in the Pacific Northwest stabilizes relative to last year, total supplies have the potential to be in balance for all sectors. If processing use continues

to decline sharply and yields are above expected, then even the cuts in acreage may not be enough for a profitable year for growers.

United notes that the acreage numbers reflect growers becoming more focused on growing for known markets, just as United leadership has encouraged. 🌱

**United members and their representatives have access to exclusive data, news and information when they log in to the United member secure website. Don't have a username and password? Contact the national office at [info@unitedpotatousa.com](mailto:info@unitedpotatousa.com), or call us at 801-517-9000 to request a username. 🌱**

## Chris Okray wins June United Photo Contest Next round photos due August 15

Not many competitive photographers can boast a three-way winning tie, but that's exactly what happened when the United photo contest judges selected three entries submitted by Christopher Okray, vice president of Okray Family Farms, Inc. in Plover, Wisconsin. Okray submitted 2010 spring planting photos taken on his family farm for the June phase of judging.

The prize is a \$100 Cabela's gift certificate. Two of his winning photos appear in this newsletter on the back page. Because he entered more than three photos, he

already qualifies for a bonus drawing in December for everyone who submits three or more photos.

You could win the August phase of the contest. United members, their families, co-op staff and representatives are invited to submit photos by August 15 for the summer phase and November 15 for the final phase. To receive a complete list of the contest rules and deadlines, call the national office at 801-517-9000 or visit [www.unitedpotatousa.com](http://www.unitedpotatousa.com), log in to the password-protected area and click on "Announcements." 🌱





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## SAVE THE DATE

**2011 Potato Expo**

January 5-7

Rio All-Suite Hotel

Las Vegas, NV

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