

**SpudPro Committee Meeting  
November 1, 2017  
Hancock Ag Research Station**

**Present:** Chairman Mike Copas, Jeff Endelman, Abigail Kutzke, Alex Crockford, Scott Woodford, Felix Navarro, Mack Naber, JD Schroeder, Amanda Gevens, Lynn Dickman, Mark Haynes, Tony Klink, Emily Bauer, Troy Fishler, Ron Krueger, Becky Eddy, Tamas Houlihan, Yi Wang, Amber Gotch, Bryan Bowen, Larry Alsum

*Chairman Mike Copas called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.*

The minutes from the July 20, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

**M/S/P** R. Krueger, A. Gotch

To approve the minutes from July 20, 2017 as presented.

#### Long-Range Planning

As part of the overall WPVGA Long-Range Planning process, the group reviewed the goals and objectives of SpudPro. There was discussion about how to recoup the cost of material when a variety is dropped. At present, SpudPro guarantees the value of the initial 160 cwt of FY2 seed produced at the UW Foundation Seed Farm (\$4800 at \$30/cwt) and reimburses the Seed Program if the seed is not sold. Subsequent waves of seed are produced at the discretion of the Foundation Seed Farm based on requests from growers. In the past several years, a number of seedlots of recently released varieties were discarded due to lack of grower interest. The committee discussed whether SpudPro should assume financial risk for seed beyond the initial 160 cwt but no consensus was reached.

#### Variety Expo

The goal of this is to look at everything in the breeding program and evaluate how varieties performed in the field in various locations during the growing season. It would be good to be able to view varieties from other breeding programs. There was discussion as to whether it was necessary to continue the Variety Expo on an annual basis going forward. Growers felt it was beneficial to hold this every year. It's a good opportunity to look at all the varieties and see how they performed in different areas of the state. Growers also agreed it would be valuable to see more North Central material here so they're aware of what's happening in other areas we support and cooperate with. They would like to see material from other regions. Felix will work on pulling in varieties from other areas. Growers should let Felix know which ones they'd like to see.

#### Discussion of Advanced SpudPro Lines (foundation seed, growers and researcher trials)

#### **Hodag**

- One grower is dropping their order
- There is a lot of this in the pipeline, Alex said he has enough mini-tubers for 1,000 cwt.
- This is on quite a few farms
- Great agronomic plant
- Will see how it does in storage this year, stored till March or April last year
- Good skin
- Michigan is growing some of this but has seen hollow heart in oversize tubers
- It is somewhat susceptible to soft rot but there hasn't been any at the State Farm
- Has late season quality
- Good size profile
- Nice round shape
- Good flavor!

#### **W8405-1R**

- Initial foundation seed was released for Spring 2016 planting
- Does well in organic systems
- Oblong
- High-yielding red

#### **W8893-1R**

- Initial foundation seed was released for Spring 2017, a few acres of certified seed in 2017
- In breeding trials, it tends to die early and has lower yield potential than Dark Red Norland; need more data from commercial seedlots derived from foundation seed
- Bulks fairly early, better than many other reds in the program
- Sizes up as quickly as Norland
- Shape (round) and eye depth (shallow) are excellent
- Nice skin color, very red in NFT
- Some soft rot in low spots in the field at the State Farm
- It does have a higher yield than Dark Red Norland
- Scab – no deficiencies in HARS trials but didn't run scab trials
- Doesn't have the skin set problems that Norlands do
- No deep eyes
- Alex will have about 200 bags to sell for 2019 planting

#### **W8890-1R**

- Initial foundation seed will be released for Spring 2019
- Yielded well for FY1 seedlot on the State Farm, about 474 cwt. per acre
- Also observed to have very high yield potential in breeding trials
- Smaller size profile than Red Endeavor or Norland, more similar to Villetta Rose (20 tubers/plant)  
It's a full-season red
- Color has been fabulous
- Has had some common scab
- Good for creamer/B-size
- There are some growers who've said they will try it

#### **W9133-1rus**

- Initial foundation seed was released for Spring 2017, a few acres of certified seed in 2017
- Early bulking
- Nice russet look
- Susceptible to verticillium wilt and moderately susceptible to scab
- Length-to-width ratio on smaller tubers is bit short, not as good as Norkotah Gold or Goldrush
- Didn't see the severe pitted scab as on Norkotah
- Had 90% pack out in March from commercial trial, has some potential
- Some cracking in cooler temperatures, will want to keep an eye on this
- Alex has quite a few pounds of mini-tubers
- This out-yielded Gold Rush in some areas
- Additional water and nitrogen helped with elongation in Felix's trials
- Yi will do some management studies on these in the coming year

#### **W9433-1rus**

- Initial foundation seed released this fall for Spring 2018
- Light-colored russet
- Out-yielded other varieties
- Good size but poor appearance

- Off-tasting characteristics noted by some people at previous Fall Variety Showcases
- There is one grower who is very interested in it
- Alex has 3,700 mini-tubers right now

#### **W9576-11Y**

- Initial foundation seed released this fall for Spring 2018
- Alex said there is good grower interest in this
- Has a lot of good traits, there is some promise to this
- Fairly early but does not bulk as quickly as Yukon Gold
- Uniform, not overly large
- Good skin finish, didn't see scab
- Good yield
- Alex has two tenths of an acre for next year

#### **CW080221-5rus**

- Greenhouse minitubers grown at Foundation Seed Farm in 2017
- Early vigor
- Some hollow heart, fairly high amount in 2015
- Some scab issues
- Heavy netting which is a concern but will need to be run in larger scale trials to see how it holds up
- Yield has been good
- Jeff expressed concern with continuing in SpudPro; will wait another month until data from Mike's research trials are available before making a recommendation to the committee.
- Breeding farm has 80 bags of seed, enough for 1 or 2 growers to conduct large trials in 2018

#### **W9523-1rus**

- Greenhouse minitubers grown at Foundation Seed Farm in 2017
- Greenhouse yield was less than we would have liked
- Canopy is small, slow to develop, which could be an issue for weed management
- Good scab tolerance
- Size profile similar to Silverton early on
- Somewhat lower yield
- We should keep going with it and put it in the field next year

#### New Candidates for SpudPro

There are two red (W10114-3R, W10209-2R) and one yellow variety (W10564-19Y) that Jeff is considering for greenhouse production at the State Farm in 2019. He will send an email to the group with more information about this.

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2018 Hancock Field Day.

**M/S/P** A. Gotch, A. Crockford

To adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie Braun  
Executive Assistant