

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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NPC to Host Potato Food Safety Guidance Document Webinar

Washington, D.C. – The National Potato Council will host a media briefing on the recent release of its *Commodity-Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Production, Harvest, Storage, and Packing of Potatoes* on Friday, Nov. 8, in a 30-minute webinar from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. ET.

WHEN:

Friday, Nov. 8, 2013
12:00 – 12:30 p.m. ET

WHAT:

With the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) public comment deadline approaching on Nov. 26, 2013, NPC is briefing its media partners on a document it commissioned to provide food safety guidance for all companies that produce, harvest, store, pack, and transport potatoes. The guidelines are broken down into four sections: I) General Practices, II) Production and Harvest Operations, III) Storage Unit Operations, and IV) Packinghouse Unit Operations. Each section lists a set of best practices to address potential food safety issues associated with those specific operations.

The U.S. potato industry is proud of its strong track record of providing domestic and international consumers a safe, nutritious product through the adoption of good agricultural practices (GAPs) and good manufacturing practices (GMPs) as part of normal production operations. Notwithstanding this record, NPC and its state and industry partners recognized the need for continuous improvement with regard to food safety and developed a voluntary set of guidelines that reinforce fundamental practices already in place on farms and in packing sheds.

The guidance document is available at

http://nationalpotatocouncil.org/files/7113/7719/9526/Potato_Food_Safety_Guidelines_06.17.13.pdf and on the

FDA industry guidance document website at

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ProducePlantProducts/UCM365582.pdf>

WHO:

The schedule of speakers includes:

- John Keeling, Executive Vice President and CEO, National Potato Council
- Susan M. Leaman, Vice President, Intertox Decision Sciences, LLC
- Andy Diercks, Vice President, Coloma Farms, Inc., Coloma, Wisc.

At the conclusion of the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions.

TO REGISTER:

To register for the webinar, please visit <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/608078678>. Participants will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the meeting and information about joining the conference call.

Dial-In Number: (760) 569-7171
Participants: 405486

The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level.

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