

## Madison County Potato Programs

### *The Situation*

Area fieldmen frequently ask Madison County Extension to provide up-to-date information on production, storage and handling practices. More than 300 phone calls or personal visits were answered during 1999.

### *Our Response*

I talked at nine grower meetings during March 1999. All the information was given to these different grower meetings by using research data gathered in the state since 1995. Presentations that lasted up to one hour in length were given at each meeting. Solutions were given in response to problems that had arisen or they might experience in the growing year.

Late Blight, Corky Ringspot and weeds were some of their major concerns. Knowing how and what information to give them is my job in educating these growers.

Conducting potato research myself allows me to give growers immediate response to problems they have.

Conducting training and input to growers and fieldmen help disseminate educational material to clientele.

### *Achievements*

Nine grower meetings with 455 people with agricultural ties attended. Meetings sponsored by

individual fertilizer companies give growers the opportunity to learn about potato production. Participants receive handouts so they have material during the year when a problem comes along.

### *The Future*

Another series of meetings have been scheduled in March 2000. Water Quality and worker protection will be added as topics. We will involve farmers, fieldmen, bankers and extension agricultural agents in program planning.

### *Participating Faculty*

Phil Nolte - Potato Specialist, University of Idaho

Gale Harding, Extension Education – Madison County Extension Educator, University of Idaho

### *For More Information*

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