Potato Scout School Provides Education to those in the Potato Industry

The Situation
Potato production covers a low percentage of crop acres in North Dakota and Minnesota, but potatoes are the most valuable vegetable in our area. There are many agronomists, consultants, and Extension agents and educators who have little training in potato production. Locally educated professionals can provide a quick response to production problems to help potato growers quickly diagnosis and remedy potential issues. They will also be able to build a network of potato professionals who can assist with answering important questions in a timely manner.

Extension Response
The NDSU Extension Service in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Extension has developed a Potato Scout School to provide training on basic potato production problems with an emphasis on pest identification. A winter meeting was held in February of 2016 and presentations were made on potato agronomy, entomology, pathology, and weed science.

Impacts
At the end of the training session, 49% of attendees indicated that their potato knowledge increased very much and 42% indicated that their potato knowledge increased somewhat.

Fifty percent of attendees said they have changed the way the farm or conduct business as a result of what they had learned.

Feedback
“It was time well spent. Thanks.”

Public Value Statement
Potatoes are a $500 million industry in North Dakota and Minnesota providing employment and food for North Dakotans. Participants learned how to improve their skills to enable them to increase sustainable potato production and be a valuable resource for the farming community.

Primary Contact
Andy Robinson
Potato Extension Agronomist
PO BOX 6050
Loftsgard Hall 166
701.231.8732
Andrew.p.robinson@ndsu.edu
www.ag.ndsu.edu/potatoextension

Image/Info Graphic

Collaborators
Neil Gudmestad, neil.gudmestad@ndsu.edu
Ian MacRae, imacrae@umn.edu
Gary Secor, gary.secor@ndsu.edu