

IMPACT



Bannock County, P.O. Box 4228, Pocatello, Idaho 83205-4228; (208) 236-7311; Fax (208) 236-7316

Spanish Sessions Open Many Doors

The Situation

As farm size increases farm managers are relying more on hired hands to make day-to-day decisions. Many hired hands are seasonal migrant workers that have difficulty understanding technical instructions in English. Agriculture, as in most other fields, is becoming more technical and a thorough understanding of pest, soil, and irrigation management is increasingly important to farm laborers. There is a real need for technical training in Spanish so that hired hands can make informed decisions based on understanding the concepts behind the management practices.

Our Response

Several sessions in Spanish were developed and presented at the annual Potato Conference. Personnel from the Idaho Department of Agriculture assisted in the workshops. Workshops included bruise management, soil moisture and irrigation management, and insect and disease recognition and management. In addition summer on-farm programs in several areas of the state are being organized by both Extension Educators and growers for those who were not able to attend the conference.

Program Outcomes

The Potato Conference program was able to reach 41 Spanish-speaking students. Many commented that they were finally able to understand all that the classes had to offer. A pre- and posttest revealed that there was a 40 % increase in student understanding of the various topics. Many farm operators said they

would have their Spanish-speaking employees attend next year's conference. The Spanish-speaking session is now incorporated into the Annual Potato Conference agenda.

For More Information

Wayne B. Jones
Extension Educator, Crops/Horticulture
University of Idaho, Bonneville County
2925 Rollandet
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone 208-529-1390
Fax 208 529-1391
wjones@uidaho.edu

Reed Findlay
Extension Educator, Crops/Horticulture
University of Idaho, Bannock County
Box 4228
Pocatello, ID 83205
Phone 208 236-7312
rfindlay@uidaho.edu

11_02wjones-spanish.doc
2002