Potato Planter Performance Evaluations

The situation
Producers in Jerome County grow about 20,000 acres of potatoes. Nearly 1/5 of Magic Valley’s total production. Most potato growers understand the importance of planting uniformly sized seedpieces at regularly spaced intervals. When seedpieces are planted at evenly spaced intervals, the resulting plants produce potatoes that are uniform in size and will increase the percentage of potatoes that grade U.S. #1.

Achievements
In-field planter evaluations were conducted for 9 producers growing over 7,500 acres of potatoes. Of the 9 planters evaluated, 6 needed adjustments to space seedpieces at “acceptable” intervals. Planter uniformity was increased 13% and will result in growers producing more uniform, higher quality potatoes with no or little additional monetary investment.

The future
Potato Planter Performance Evaluations will be performed for more growers in the future. After growers observed how to evaluate their planters, they are able to: (1) adjust their planters to increase uniformity, or (2) realize that they should consider purchasing more accurate planting equipment.

For more information
David L. Barton, Extension Educator-Agriculture
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System
300 North Lincoln, Suite 111
Jerome, Idaho 83338

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