



Debra Ingalls



Pete Thomas



Kiran Shetty



Robert Thornton



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processed acreage is entirely responsible for the change in Russet Burbank fields being infected with PLRV, Thornton stressed. There are other factors, including increases in the number of row crops being grown and the ongoing challenge with volunteer potatoes. More onions, corn, beans, carrots, peas and other row crops are being grown, and untreated volunteer potatoes are surviving in many such fields as well as in broadcast-type crops.

More volunteers survive in row versus broadcast-type crops, Thornton said. One study showed twice the number.

The researcher showed a slide of a corn field that looked more like a bumper crop of potatoes.

Data from Dr. Pete Thomas also showed that there are more aphids on row crop versus broadcast volunteers, Thornton said.

In considering what to do about controlling potato leaf roll, the industry must look at: (1) seed purchased for planting — leaf roll can be seed borne; (2) potato acreage use patterns; and (3) rotation crop make-up, Thornton said.

Good Job Protecting Arsenal

In his presentation on the impact of the Food Quality Protection Act, Dr. Alan Schreiber, with the Agriculture Development Group, Inc., Pasco, Wash., complimented the Washington State Potato Commission (WSPC) and the National Potato Council (NPC) for their involvement in pesticide issues, describing them as "the most involved organizations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the country."

In terms of chemical registrations in danger of being lost, potato growers have more to lose than virtually any other commodity groups, he said. Potatoes, particularly in Washington State, require more organophosphates and carbamates for protection than anywhere in the world.

On the bright side, because of aggressive action by the NPC, WSPC and others, EPA has backed off, at least for the time being, canceling all organophosphate labels, Schreiber said. The NPC took a vigorous stand and has been successful in saving SuperTin.



Pat Boss, left, Lynn Olsen and Bud Middaugh pose for a picture.

Growers can continue to use Thimet, and it now looks like the Mocap and Di-Syston labels will be saved, he said.

On the other hand, EPA continues to worry about worker exposure, Schreiber said. Growers will now have to use enclosed systems for loading some materials, which means enclosed cabs and cockpits and wearing protective clothing. EPA also wants to increase re-entry time on products such as Monitor, moving it out 20 days. Re-entry time is currently the big issue in the battle to save Monitor.

Liquid Seed Piece Treatments

In his presentation on "What's New in Liquid Seed Piece Treatment Technology," Dr. Kiran Shetty, with Novartis, said the potato industry is beginning to move away from "dust" treatments used over the past 30 years to more liquid protectants.

With the advent of new products such as Maxim and improved technology which reduces water droplet size, previous concern over putting water on cut seed pieces is disappearing, he said. Maxim is now registered for control of rhizoctonia, silver scurf and *fusarium*. Its main advantage is that it can be used at a very low active ingredient rate per acre, 0.5 percent.

Maxim-MZ also does "a very good job" as a late blight seed treatment, the researcher said.

"Liquid seed treatments will work, and if they fit your operation, I strongly encourage you to give them a shot," Shetty told the group. Other material from the Washington Potato Conference will be presented in subsequent issues. ■