



News Release

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Montana's Kimm Seed Potatoes Presented with NPC's 2012 Environmental Stewardship Award



From left to right: NPC 2012 President Steve Crane; Redge Bodily, DuPont Area Sales Manager for the Pacific Northwest; Marian Kimm, Bill Kimm, Jason Kimm, and Alan Venema of Kimm Seed Potatoes

Washington, D.C. – Kimm Seed Potatoes of Manhattan, Mont., was the recipient of the prestigious 2012 Environmental Stewardship Award presented at the National Potato Council's (NPC) 2013 Annual Meeting, held January 11-12, 2013, in Las Vegas. The annual award is a component of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, a partnership between NPC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to protect the environment and promote the safe and effective use of pesticides.

"I wish my dad could see what has happened in the last 15 years," said Bill Kimm. "One of the things he left with us before he died, he always said that if you take care of the land, it will take care of you. And that has been very true."

Bill Kimm's father started raising potatoes in 1948, and switched to raising seed potatoes a decade later. In addition to Bill, the family operation is managed by his brother Scott, his sons Jason and Mark, and his son-in-law Alan Venema.

Kimm Seed Potatoes was recognized for its commitment to producing crops in a sustainable manner through crop rotation, reduced tillage, proper irrigation, and balanced fertilizer and pest management programs that utilize composted manure and compost tea. The Kimms believe environmental awareness and stewardship has led to high quality seed potatoes grown in Montana.

Nina Zidack, director of the Montana Seed Certification Program, noted that Montana is extremely important to the U.S. seed potato industry because the state produces between 10 and 15 percent of all seed potatoes grown in this country each year.

A video of Kimm Seed's sustainability practices was created through the generous sponsorship of DuPont Crop Protection. Each year, videos of Environmental Stewardship Award winners are used by schools, agricultural organizations, and civic groups to demonstrate the potato industry's commitment to sound environmental stewardship. The video is available online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NatlPotatoCouncil>. Complimentary DVD copies are available by emailing spudinfo@nationalpotatocouncil.org.

The deadline to submit nominations for NPC's 2013 Environmental Stewardship Award is March 15. The selection will be made by the NPC Executive Committee and presented at the NPC 2014 Annual Meeting. For more information, contact spudinfo@nationalpotatocouncil.org or (202) 682-9456.

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The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level.