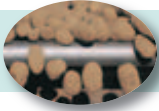


Crop Production

Next potato congress slated for Paris



Potato Focus

By T.J. BURNHAM

IN the wake of the sixth World Potato Congress in Boise, Idaho, plans are under way for the seventh World Potato Congress to be held in Paris in March 2009. Sessions are held every three years. The Boise event last summer marked this nation's first hosting of the WPC.

Plans are well under way with the French potato organization, CNIPT, to host this next congress. Two directors, Romain Cools from Belgium and Allan Parker from Canada, met with CNIPT officials in late November and prepared a list of topics that will be discussed this month with other WPC directors in preparation for the Paris congress.

The 2009 session will take the form of a congress and a trade and technology show, which will all take place at the one venue. It will be held immediately following SIMA, the world's largest international farm machinery and equipment show. SIMA is held every two years around the first week of March.

At the March meeting with CNIPT, delegates will discuss the focus of the proposed program for the WPC as well as proposed tours and social activities.

Having the WPC immediately after SIMA will allow for individuals from international countries to plan tours that will take in SIMA as well as the congress and trade and technology show.

Boise baked up a success

Boise's sixth WPC was a "huge success," says Lloyd Palmer, president of World Potato Congress Inc. "Over 900 delegates from over 40 different countries attended this very successful congress in Boise," he notes.

The WPC was conducted in Boise while the Farm Show, which included the Trade and Technology Exhibits, was held at Wilder, a farming area about one hour from Boise. Most of the WPC delegates were able to attend the Farm Show, reports Palmer.

The number of farm families attending the show from Idaho and neighboring states was low compared with the expectations of the organizers, however. The good harvesting weather was blamed for keeping many at home.

One complaint following the show was the lack of prompt delivery of a promised CD of proceedings in Boise. "I have been in constant contact with the U.S. National Potato Foundation regarding the fact that the congress proceedings have not yet been forwarded to the delegates," says Palmer.

The WPC also will sponsor a potato tour to Australia and New Zealand next

Key Points

- Paris will be the site of the next World Potato Congress in March 2009.
- A huge international farm machinery and equipment show also will be held in Paris.
- The World Potato Congress is hosting a tour to Australia in February 2008.

year. The WPC will co-host a Potato Tour to "Down Under" in February 2008, which is the International Year of the Potato.

John Rich, a former Advisory Committee member to the WPC, has joined the AgTour Australia team and will be the tour leader. This tour was announced at the WPC in Boise and received many positive comments from delegates.

More information about the tour can be found online by visiting the Web site at www.potatocongress.org and then clicking on the link to the tour company and all of the details.

In a recent board meeting, the WPC directors agreed to start publicity on

this tour now, as many potato growers may want to consider this opportunity as a special Christmas gift for a spouse or parents.

The tour will begin Feb. 10 in Melbourne. Individual participants will travel to Australia and join the whole group on that day.



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