

Potato Planting Time on PEI!

(CHARLOTTETOWN, PE - May 10th, 2016) Prince Edward Island potato growers are beginning one of the busiest times of their year...planting season. Potato growers are excited to get on the land earlier than last year and plant the Island's famous crop. Planting marks the beginning of a new season and with it renewed optimism for a healthy, productive crop.

Only 15% of Prince Edward Island's farmland is planted with potatoes, however this is enough to make the Island the leader in Canadian potato production, with potatoes grown for processing, fresh consumption, and seed. Growers are hopeful for a growing season with consistent sun and rain in order to produce high quality potatoes for consumption here in PEI, across Canada, and around the world!



Photo credit: Gerrit Vissers & Sons, Orwell, PEI

Now that contracts have been settled with all french fry and chip processors, growers have a good idea of how many acres they will need to plant to fill those contracts. Growers that grow for the fresh market or for seed are also mindful of how many potatoes they will need and will plant accordingly in order to match supply with demand as much as possible.

Prince Edward Island motorists are encouraged to have patience with farm equipment on Island roads, especially at this time of year. Slow moving tractors and implements take time to make it from field to field, so keep a reasonable distance and make sure it is safe before attempting to pass slow moving vehicles. Potato growers are growing food for everyone, so please take your time and be careful when encountering equipment on the roads.

Prince Edward Island Potatoes are world renowned for the great taste and quality that comes from growing in the unique red soil of PEI. The potato industry in PEI creates a total economic impact of \$1.065 billion dollars and directly or indirectly employs over 12% of the Island workforce. The Prince Edward Island Potato Board is a producer-controlled association dedicated to supporting the highest performance of an economically and environmentally sustainable potato industry.

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For more information on this release, please contact:

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POTATO BOARD

90 Hillstrom Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI CANADA C1E 2C6

Ph: 902-892-6551 Fax: 902-566-4914

Email: potato@peipotato.org Web: www.peipotato.org