



NORTH DAKOTA

Ensuring a strong
future for the potato
industry.

NORTHERN PLAINS



MINNESOTA



For more than 100 years, potatoes have been grown in the rich and fertile soil of the Red River Valley.

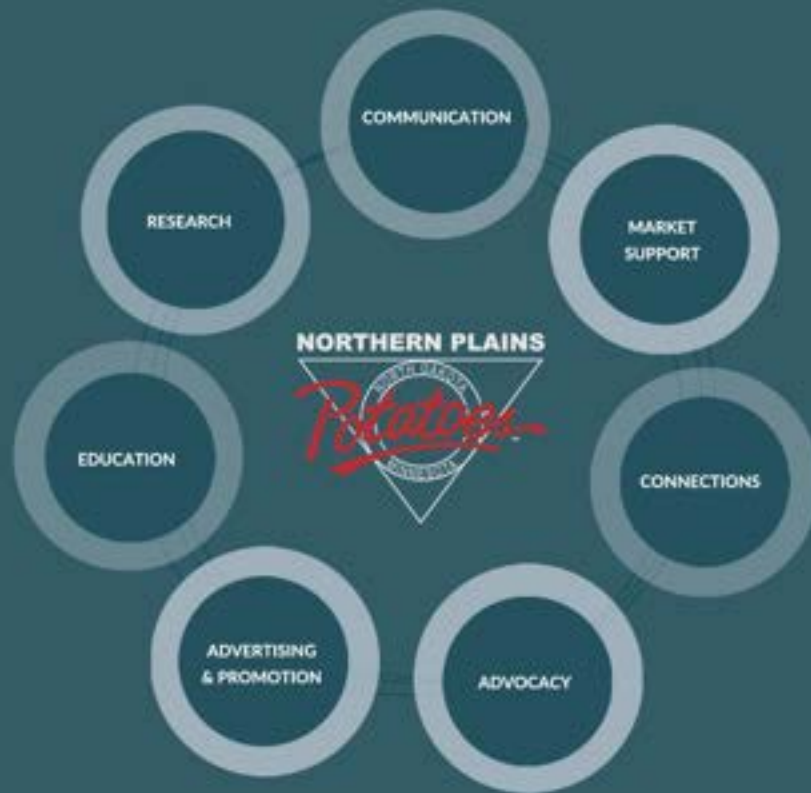
The Northern Plains Potato Growers Association was organized in 1946 by a handful of potato growers who felt the valley's potato industry needed to be more united. Since then, more than 600 grower members have evolved into about 200 larger and more consolidated grower members.

Today, the Northern Plains region is one of the nation's largest potato producing areas, producing volume for four major potato markets: chip, fresh, seed and frozen processing. NPPGA works for its grower members in the areas of research, communication, market support, advocacy, promotion and advertising, education and legislation.

Potatoes grown in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota are the highest quality found anywhere. It is with pride and dedication that the potato growers in this area combine a superior work ethic, modern, state-of-the-art equipment, significant research, and facilities to produce excellent quality potatoes.

Potatoes have been a powerful part of generations of families and a staple in the daily lives of our communities.

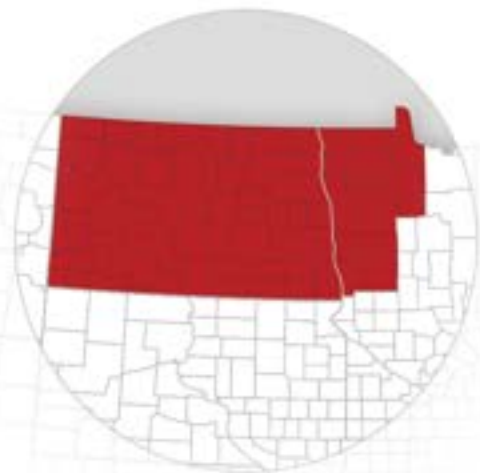




NPPGA MISSION

To promote profitability and unity of the potato growers of Minnesota and North Dakota through the development and promotion of quality potatoes and potato products.





72,000 acres
IN NORTH DAKOTA

8,800 acres
IN MINNESOTA

The Northern Plains Region

The Red River Valley of the North, and the region surrounding it, is one of the most fertile farming regions in the world. With its nutrient-rich black earth, there is no better place to grow delicious, hearty potatoes.

Red and yellow potato varieties are grown for fresh consumption, russet varieties for frozen potato products and round white potatoes for producing potato chips.



HOW POTATOES ARE GROWN



BEDDING

Tractors pull cultivators to create and shape beds that allow space for potato growth, create irrigation furrows and control weeds.



PLANTING

Planters place seed tubers—often cut pieces of whole seed potatoes—in the ground.



1 SPROUT DEVELOPMENT

Small indentations on the seed tubers called "eyes" begin to sprout and grow upward toward the soil's surface.



2 VEGETATIVE GROWTH

Above ground, leaves and stems begin to form from emerged sprouts. Under the surface, roots and stolons, or new baby tubers, are forming.



3 TUBER INITIATION

Tubers, or potatoes, start to form at stolon tips.



4 TUBER BULKING

The potatoes begin to grow as the tubers become the main depository of carbs and nutrients for the plant. Flowers appear on the vines above ground.



5 VINE DESICCATE

Vines above ground turn yellow and leaves drop. Potatoes reach their maximum size and their skins set.



HARVESTING

When the potatoes are ready, tractors pull mechanical harvesters that dig up potatoes and transfer them to a truck to be hauled to storage or a processing facility.

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"Potatoes have been the center of our world in the Northern Plains for as long as I can remember."

"I'm grateful that I've been able to be a part of this industry, and even more excited that my kids have an opportunity to be a part of what I love. Potatoes are more than just a crop, and farming is more than just a job for us. The future of potato farming is ever-changing - and that makes every day exciting."

TJ Hall, Hoople, ND



**IMPACT OF
POTATOES IN
THE NORTHERN
PLAINS REGION**

\$500 Million

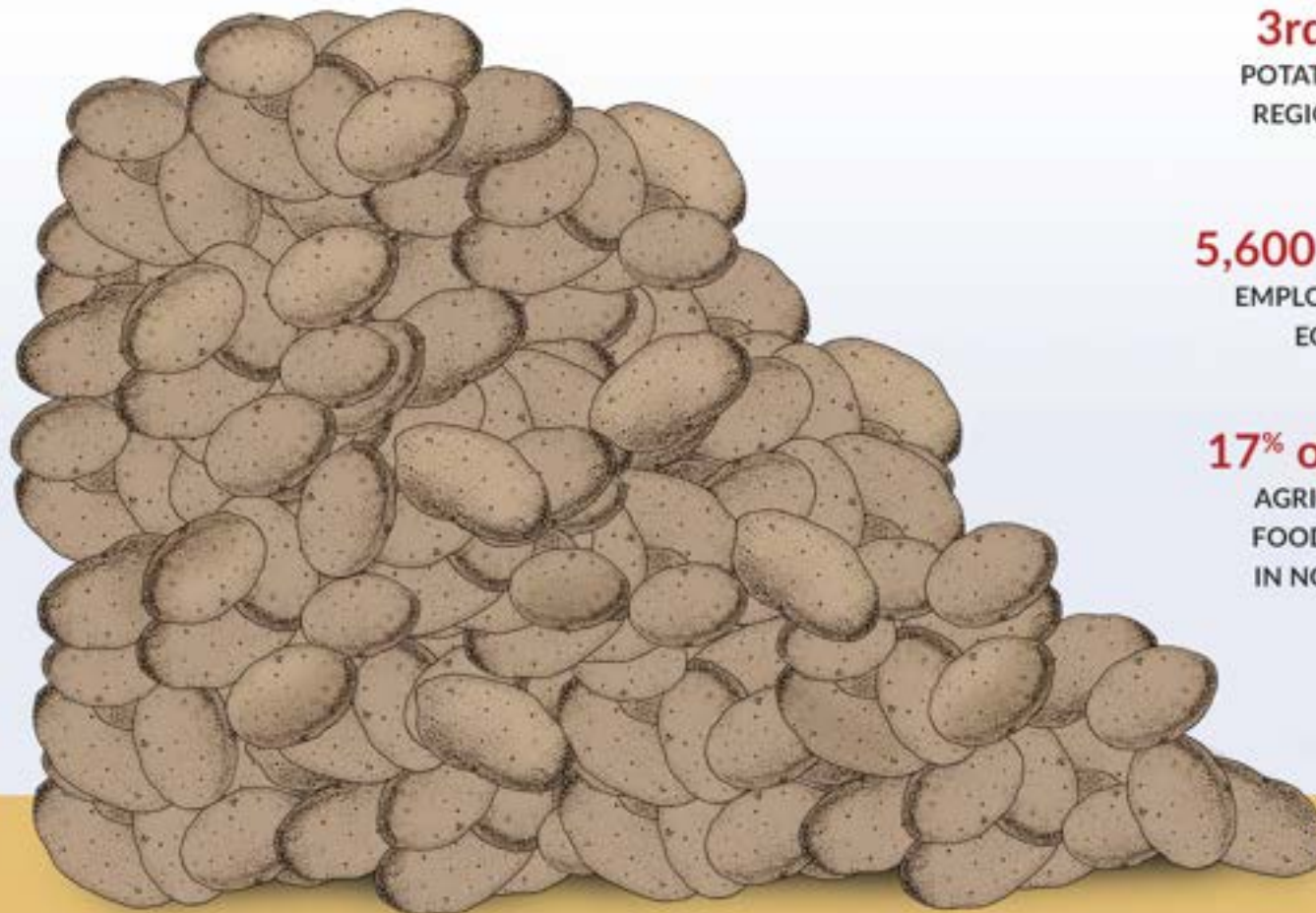
VALUE OF THE ANNUAL POTATO CROP

2.6 Billion Pounds
OF POTATOES
PRODUCED ANNUALLY

3rd Largest
POTATO PRODUCING
REGION IN THE U.S.

5,600 Employees
EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
EQUIVALENT

17% of Economy
AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD PROCESSING
IN NORTH DAKOTA



Source: MPLAN,
USDA-NASS, NPPGA and
Informa Economics Inc.

There are four sectors that span the Northern Plains potato growing region. Each sector provides potatoes for different markets domestically and internationally.



FROZEN PROCESSING

65%

Production

2

Large frozen
processing plants



RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICE

13%

Production

15

Retail packaging
facilities



CHIPPING POTATOES

12%

Production

12

Growers supplying
potatoes to the nation's
largest chip processors



CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES

10%

Production

40

Growers producing
certified seed potatoes
on 20,000 acres



"Being able to take care of the land, grow healthy food, and support my local community is something that I do not take for granted."

"It's a responsibility that I am proud to take on and I know my fellow potato farmers are as well."

Justin Dagen, Karlstad, MN

"There was never a question in my mind if I was going to be a potato farmer."

"My great grandfather started growing potatoes in the Red River Valley in 1928. The story of multi-generational potato farmers is common in this region. Potatoes are special and the history and impact are unquantifiable. I'm proud to keep that history alive and I'm excited to see what the next generation of potato farmers will do."

Eric Halverson, Grand Forks, ND



FIND RECIPES AT POTATOGOODNESS.COM



NPPGA AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS



NORTHERN PLAINS POTATO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

An association comprised of about 200 growers and shippers across North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

nppga.org



VALLEY POTATO GROWER

Publication of the NPPGA, providing the most current research and information for the local and national potato industry.

valleypotatogrower.com

NORTHERN PLAINS



Potato Bytes

NPPGA NEWSLETTER

Weekly email newsletter providing the latest local and national potato news from the NPPGA.

nppga.org/potato_news



RED RIVER VALLEY POTATOES

The Red River Valley is one of the nation's leading producers of fresh red potatoes and yellow potatoes.

redrivervalleypotatoes.com



NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL

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.

nationalpotatocouncil.org



POTATOES USA

Marketing organization for the 2,500 commercial potato growers operating across the United States.

potatoesusa.com



POTATO ASSOCIATES

Agribusiness men and women who have a vested interest in the region's potato industry.

nppga.org/aboutus



UNITED POTATO GROWERS OF AMERICA

A federated farmer cooperative focused on improving grower sustainability through understanding supply and demand.

unitedpotatousa.com



Northern Plains Potato Growers Association
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East Grand Forks, MN 56721

nppga.org

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