NAPSO News

Leading the future of potato storage!

Welcome to the NAPSO Newsletter!

Welcome to this edition of the NAPSO Newsletter!

The North America Potato Storage Organization (NAPSO) is committed to providing industry professionals with the latest updates, expert insights, and best practices for optimizing potato storage. In this newsletter, we bring you highlights from our latest webinar, upcoming events, and practical strategies to improve seed handling and disease prevention.

We are grateful to our growing community of storage specialists, agronomists, and producers who continue to contribute to the advancement of best practices in potato storage. Stay informed, stay connected, and let's work together to improve storage outcomes across the industry!

Best wishes,
The NAPSO Team

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Important links

- NAPSO Website: www.napso.info

- NAPSO Safety Resources: napso.info/safety-resources

- NAPSO Webinars: napso.info/napso-webinars

- NAPSO Educational Articles napso.info/educational-articles

"Every single diet I ever fell off of was because of potatoes and gravy of some sort."
Dolly Parton

Upcoming Events

March-June 2025 – **NAPSO Webinar #4:** Our next webinar will focus on long-term storage management, covering strategies to reduce shrink, control disease, and enhance storage efficiency.

July 28, 2025 – **PAA Symposium, Madison, WI** NAPSO will co-host a dedicated storage symposium during the PAA meeting in Madison, WI. The session will feature expert discussions, including an international perspective from Dr. Kurt Demeulemeester (Inagro, Belgium) on storing potatoes in a post-CIPC world.

Best Practices for Seed Potato Storage & Handling

NAPSO's most recent webinar, "*Storing for Success: Protecting Potato Seed & Preventing Disease*," was hosted on February 24, 2025 and provided growers with expert guidance on best practices for seed handling, storage, and disease management.

Kasia Duellman (University of Idaho) shared key insights on the impact of temperature control, airflow, and physiological age on seed viability. She emphasized the importance of gradual cooling, humidity regulation, and gentle handling to reduce damage and improve sprouting potential. Physiological age management plays a crucial role in determining yield and tuber development, and growers should assess storage conditions carefully to optimize planting outcomes.

James Alford (Alford Custom Ag/Premier Seed LLC) focused on the importance of proper seed receiving, suberization, and sanitation. His presentation highlighted strategies to minimize bruising, optimize airflow, and prevent storage diseases such as Fusarium dry rot and soft rot. Alford also emphasized that routine monitoring and strict environmental control can help preserve seed quality and reduce losses throughout the storage period.

Both presentations reinforced the critical role of careful seed management in maintaining high-quality planting stock. A full recap of the webinar , including a pdf file of the presentations and a video recording of the event is available on the NAPSO website - www.napso.info.

Ensuring Optimal Seed Quality Through Proper Handling & Disease Prevention

With the seed shipping and planting season approaching, it is essential to prioritize proper handling and disease prevention measures. This month, NAPSO highlights three key strategies to help growers maintain seed quality and maximize performance.

Ensuring Proper Seed Storage Conditions

Storage temperature and humidity must be carefully controlled to preserve seed viability and prevent physiological aging.

Temperature Management

Store seed potatoes between 34-39°F (1.1-3.9°C) with a gradual cooling rate to avoid condensation and internal damage.

Humidity Control: Maintain 85-95% relative humidity to prevent shrinkage while minimizing excess moisture that could lead to disease outbreaks.

Ventilation and Airflow: Proper airflow prevents CO buildup, reduces disease risks, and ensures uniform temperature distribution throughout the storage area.

Best Practices for Shipping & Handling Seed

Gentle handling during loading, transport, and unloading is critical for minimizing bruising and maintaining seed integrity.

Pre-shipment preparation
Warm seed gradually before transit to avoid cold stress.
Minimize mechanical damage: Avoid large drops (>6 inches or 15.24 cm), use padding at impact points, and ensure seed is handled with care.
Monitor temperatures in transit
Temperature fluctuations can increase disease risks. Use refrigerated trucks for long-distance shipments to maintain stable conditions.
Preventing Seed-Borne Diseases
Effective disease prevention strategies can help minimize storage losses and improve field performance.
Suberization (wound healing)
Allow 10-14 days of suberization at 47-55°F (8.3-12.8°C) before cutting to heal wounds and reduce infection risks.

Growers should focus on:
Sanitation Measures: Clean and disinfect storage areas before receiving new seed to prevent carryover contamination.
Fungicide Treatments: Use targeted fungicides for common seed diseases such as Fusarium dry rot, Rhizoctonia, and silver scurf. Follow label recommendations for safe and effective application.

Thank you for reading the NAPSO Newsletter! Please help us spread the word about NAPSO and its initiatives by sharing this newsletter with your colleagues to keep them informed about us, and of course engaged in advancing potato storage best practices.

Any ideas, suggestions, critiques? Feel free to connect with our Communications Coordinator, Emily Merk on contact@napso.info *and she will respond to you.*