

**POTATO DEVELOPMENT WORK
IN WISCONSIN, SPECIAL
BULLETIN NO. 2, ISSUED BY THE
WISCONSIN POTATO GROWERS
ASSOCIATION**

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Potato Development Work in Wisconsin

Special Bulletin No. 2

Issued by the

Wisconsin Potato Growers Association

The Wisconsin Potato Growers Association is again pleased to take this means, in the Bulletin here submitted, to present to the potato industry of the state

A Summary of the Annual Convention Program

A Collection of Views of Convention Exhibits

All illustrating the features of Association work now under development in the state.

March, 1916

Wisconsin Potato Growers Association

OFFICERS

President—J. W. Hicks, Prentice

Vice-President—O. C. Woodard, Weyauwega

Sec'y-Treasurer—J. G. Milward, Madison

1916 Convention Announcement

As this bulletin goes to press, the Executive Committee in conference with Eau Claire Committees has decided definitely upon the dates of the Fifth Annual Convention

To be held at Eau Claire

Nov. 21-24, 1916

Review of Convention Program Held at Marinette, Nov. 17-19, 1915

Space does not permit here to adequately recognize the service rendered by Marinette city and county interests during a season's co-operation in preparation for the state convention.



RALPH SKIDMORE
Marinette, Wis.

Complete organization of every department was effected in the interest of entertainment and comfort of delegates and in the business-like management of convention details.

The Thursday evening entertainment program at the opera house was arranged by the Marinette Entertainment committee. Chairman H. P. Goldman presided.

A very high class musical program was rendered by local people after which Hon. Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary United States Department of Agriculture delivered the address of the evening on "The Business Side of Farming."

As another example of how the convention was received at Marinette, we also acknowledge the courtesy of the Marinette Eagle Star in printing a special potato issue devoted exclusively to the convention and special articles on potato growing.

The Marinette County School of Agriculture and Domestic Science, The Marinette Woman's Club, Mayor Fisher and city officials, were all contributing forces to the success of the convention.

The chairmen on committees were: on executive committee, Prof. H. M. Olson; on entertainment committee, Mr. H. P. Goldman; on decoration committee, M. J. Culnan; on reception committee, John Leason.

Throughout all arrangements for the convention the state

association worked directly with Mr. Ralph Skidmore of the Skidmore Land Company and to him and his associates recognition is especially due for the results mentioned above.

The Results of the Fourth Annual Convention held at Marinette

A Review of the Potato Convention and Exhibit Submitted by a Marinette Writer.

HOWARD I. WOOD
Marinette, Wis.

It is still too early to be able to judge the full effects in this locality of the holding of the 1915 show and convention of the Wisconsin Potato Growers' Association at Marinette, but many

effects are already apparent. First and foremost, a larger number of Marinette county farmers will endeavor henceforth to raise potatoes which measure up in all particulars to the standard set by the state association. Indications also point to a very large increase in the acreage of certified seed potatoes.



HOWARD I. WOOD
Marinette, Wis.

In Marinette county as in most other potato localities the crop has been gambled with in the past. Take for instance a season like the present with the price of potatoes very high. Ordinarily that would mean the acreage next year would be doubled. Given a favorable growing year, with a minimum of trouble with

potato diseases, and there would be such a yield that prices would possibly be tumbled to twenty cents per bushel or less, as

was the case a few years ago when a big yield season followed a year of high prices.

But I don't think, even with the present high prices, that farmers in this district will rush into a greatly increased acreage of potatoes for next season. One progressive farmer who attended nearly every session of the state convention told me that the best farmers felt they would devote about the same acreage to the crop as last season, but they would endeavor to increase the yield by better methods on the same acreage. They would pay more attention, he said, to proper seed, to properly preparing the seed bed, to the use of fertilizer, to cultural methods and to spraying to prevent blight. He held that if prices were low next year the farmer would not have sacrificed any additional acreage for the crop, and if prices were high, he would have a higher yield from the same acreage as the result of better methods.

I think it is safe to say the number of varieties in any one locality will be reduced as a result of the convention. Farmers are now fairly well convinced of the desirability of growing pure-bred stock, and of the marketing advantages of growing only two or three varieties in one locality.

So far as certified seed is concerned the farmers as a result of the annual show have come to realize that certified seed always brings a premium over the price for table stock, and that there is little danger of the seed market being flooded—not with certified seed, at least. They have reasoned that growing certified seed means a selling price which will yield a fair profit every year and if prices are abnormally high, they will be higher for certified seed than for the best table stock. Raising certified seed, they believe, is just another step in removing the gambling element so far as possible in raising and selling potatoes.

More farmers in the future will make potatoes one of the crops of a good rotation plan, figuring their loss or profit over a period of three to five years, instead of one year. If a five year period of raising potatoes as part of a rotation plan shows a good profit they will see the desirability of continuing on that plan.

We have endeavored in this locality to follow up the good work of the convention by calling attention in the local press to various points brought out by the speakers and exhibitors, and we believe this plan is making available even to farmers who could not attend the show, the benefits of that meeting. We look,

therefore, for extensive improvement in many ways in potato growing in this locality next year, and each succeeding year.

This would not be complete without a word concerning what the potato show has meant to the city of Marinette. It was the first time the city had been thoroughly worked up to take part as a whole in a show or convention of an agricultural nature. Before the day the show opened everyone in Marinette was talking potatoes, and they continued to talk potatoes—cultural methods, marketing, containers, disease-control, etc.,—for several weeks after the convention ended.

The effect of this was to stimulate a very healthy interest among Marinette business men in the welfare of the farmers, and it is easier today than ever before to interest the town business people in any project designed to further agricultural development in Marinette county.



D. S. BULLOCK
Marinette County School of
Agriculture



JOSEPH FISHER
Mayor of Marinette

President's Annual Address

By J. W. HICKS, Prentice, Wis.

President of the Wisconsin Potato Growers' Association.

One of the first definite results of a number of years of preliminary work by the Horticultural Department of the University of Wisconsin, having for its ultimate object the placing of the

rapidly developing potato industry of the state upon a better business basis, was the organization at Waupaca, on the 14th day of November, 1912, of the Wisconsin Potato Growers' Association.

One of the features of the work of the association provided by its constitution is an annual convention at which its progressive members compete in an exposition demonstrating the progress made from year to year and in a program dealing with some of the important and perplexing problems involved in the growing of better potatoes.



J. W. HICKS
President Wisconsin Potato Growers'
ASSN.

And as we today open this our fourth annual convention which, both in point of character and quantity of exhibits in the armory across the street and the program to be given in this beautiful hall, far exceeds any former efforts, I wish on behalf of the executive committee, to thank the loyal members of this association for their effective work in assembling this splendid exhibit of Wisconsin potatoes; and I wish to congratulate the city of Marinette on having a body of hustling business men whose tireless efforts have made this great convention possible.

When Marinette was selected as the convention city for 1915 it was with the understanding that she would do certain things