

FINAL REPORT TO THE  
RESEARCH  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
MAINE POTATO BOARD

TO:

Tim Hobbs  
Director of Development  
Maine Potato Board  
Presque Isle, ME 04769

FROM:

University of Maine  
Cooperative Extension  
59 Houlton Road  
Presque Isle, ME 04769

SUBJECT:

Late Blight Weather Station Network

PERIOD:

3/01/2014 to 10/01/2014

FUNDS REQUESTED:

\$4170.00

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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Late blight has cost the Maine potato industry untold millions of dollars. Efforts to collect data and to predict late blight have resulted in huge savings to the Maine potato grower. Maintenance of equipment and continued improvement using evolving technology helps keep growers ahead of late blight. To address this need, new weather stations were purchased and installed. This served to stabilize the weather station network and continue the operation of late blight forecasting. The weather station network is the source of the updates on the hotline and late blight forecasts.

With new developments in wireless technology, uploading of data from remote stations is now possible and was investigated. A remote station was located on Aroostook Farm and reports weather data hourly. It is currently operational and information from the weather station can be accessed through the World Wide Web (<http://www.weatherlink.com/user/stevejohnson/index.php?view=main&headers=1>). This web site (and a funding acknowledgement) was sent to all Maine potato growers and allied industry personnel. Additionally smartphone technology methods were used to remotely access weather data (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.indianic.wl>). This link (and a funding acknowledgement) was sent to all Maine potato growers and allied industry personnel as well.