



## Investing in the U.S. Potato Industry Via the Appropriations Process

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

- ✓ For the FY22 Omnibus, maintain the Senate's amount of \$3 million for NIFA's Potato Research Special Grants.
- ✓ For FY23, at least \$3.25 million should be requested for NIFA's Potato Research Special Grants.
- ✓ The Appropriations Committees should also maintain report language in FY23 that recognizes the value of the ARS Potato Collaborative Research Program.

For more than 30 years, the National Potato Council has worked with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to secure funding for NIFA's [Potato Research Special Grants](#) that support competitive potato breeding projects across the country.

Each of these peer-reviewed research projects addresses actual challenges impacting potato production, utilize the expertise of USDA scientists and independent plant breeders, and deliver measurable improvements in the efficiency and quality of potato production. The “non-federal” contributions to these vital projects (provided by growers, state grower organizations and land grant universities) provides more than a two-to-one match to funding provided by NIFA.

For FY22, the Senate's version provides \$3 million for NIFA's potato research special grants. NPC thanks the both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for continuing to support this vital program and recommends no less than the Senate level.

For FY23, given the solid return on investment from NIFA's potato breeding research program and the demands placed upon it due to phytosanitary challenges facing the potato industry, we request enhanced funding to \$3.25 million. Examples of successful new potato varieties developed in recent years as a result of these funding dollars include Clearwater (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington), Caribou (Maine), Manistee (Michigan), and Lamoka (New York).

For FY23 NPC is requesting members of Congress to ask the Appropriations Committees to maintain report language in their respective bills that recognizes the value of the ARS Potato Collaborative Research Program. ARS funding for the potato research projects under this program is typically around \$1.12 million.

Additionally, the Senate FY22 report includes the following language regarding NIFA Integrated Activities on Pest Management Programs:

*Potato Research - To minimize the application of pesticides and to maximize the yield and quality of harvested potatoes, the Committee directs the Secretary to support pest management programs in potato growing states.*

*Such programs help scientists track potential pest outbreaks and provide growers and industry professionals with current information on specific and timely treatments. Additionally, the programs help identify serious diseases, such as late blight disease, in their early stages, allowing for preventive measures to be put into place quickly to avoid crop losses.*

The National Potato Council recommends that this language be included in the FY22 Omnibus and, also, included in the FY23 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.