



US Potato Board
National Potato Council

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Joint Industry Communication

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Japan Extends Shipping Window For US Chipping Potatoes

DENVER/WASHINGTON, DC (September 15, 2011)— The National Potato Council (NPC) and United States Potato Board (USPB) recognize the efforts of the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in obtaining a permanent extension to the shipping window for fresh US chipping potatoes to Japan to include the month of July.

On July 3, 2011 the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced the extension of the February – June shipping window to include July, effective immediately. The NPC and USPB also appreciate the important contribution of the Snack Food Manufacturing Association in Japan in obtaining this extension.

Fresh chipping potatoes from the US may now arrive in Japan from February 1 through July 31. The extension for 2011 resulted in the export of 2,153 additional metric tons (MT) of US chipping potatoes valued at \$1,068,000 in July. Total exports from the US to Japan in 2011 reached record levels of 9,294 MT valued at \$4,656,484. This brings total exports since access was granted in 2006 to 15,036 MT valued at \$7.2 million.

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The mission of the United States Potato Board is to increase demand for potatoes and potato products through an integrated promotion program, thereby providing US producers with expanding markets for their production. For complete information about the programs, ROI results, resources and tools available to all members of the industry through the USPB, please visit www.uspotatoes.com. The United States Potato Board—Maximizing Return on Grower Investment.

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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. Potato growers, along with the U.S. potato industry as whole, directly benefit from involvement in the National Potato Council. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level. The National Potato Council is a voluntary organization supported by quota assessments from state organizations, allied industry memberships and sponsorships, and directly by potato growers through membership dues.