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Wisconsin DATCP: Wisconsin Potato Board election now under way

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MADISON – Wisconsin potato growers have until June 10, 2019 to vote to elect three members to the nine-member Wisconsin Potato Industry Board. One seat is open in the board's Districts 1 and 2, along with an at-large position that encompasses all three districts. Eligible growers may vote for the candidate in their respective districts, or they may write in alternative eligible producers. Candidates were nominated during the period that ended April 1, 2019.

Nominees on the ballot are:

District 1: Nominee: Keith Wolter, Antigo.

District 2: Nominee: Clifford Gagas, Custer.

At-Large Nominee: Andrew Diercks, Coloma.

The three districts involved in the election represent the following counties:

District 1 – Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Vilas, and Washburn.

District 2 – Marathon, Outagamie, Portage, Shawano, Waupaca and Waushara.

District 3 – Adams, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago and Wood.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is mailing ballots to producers the week of May 15. Ballots must be emailed or postmarked by June 10, 2019. Elected producers will serve three-year terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2022.

Growers with questions or who have not received a ballot by May 22 can contact DATCP's Market Orders Program Director, Debbie Gegare, at 608-224-5116 or Debbie.Gegare@Wisconsin.gov.

The Wisconsin Potato Industry Board is responsible for administering Wisconsin's Potato Marketing Order. The board secures and distributes funding for research, education and promotion of Wisconsin-grown potatoes. DATCP administers elections for all Wisconsin market orders. To learn more about the market order boards, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/MarketingBoards.aspx

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