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Growers Encouraged to Plant 70-75% of their 2004 Base in 2010

Harvest is in full swing, and many are establishing plans for next year's potato crop. By now, all of you already know the top line on this year's crop. Across the state, it appears we are experiencing higher yields. If this continues, we could have as much as 5% more potatoes statewide than expected. The same thing is happening in Wisconsin and Colorado. They, too, are experiencing higher yields. Your markets are already telling you what to expect. The GRI on Norkotahs today is \$4.66 and on Burbanks it is \$5.52. Realistically, given the likely size of this year's crop, we could easily see a larger than normal carry over into next year.

With this potential in mind, United of Idaho's Supply Committee is in agreement with ALL of the United of America Directors in recommending the follow planting guidelines for next year. All growers are asked to plant 70-75% of their 2004 base in 2010 to BALANCE next year's crop with this year's anticipated large carry over. This recommendation to cut 25-30% off your 2004 base acres will be finalized in November when we have the final tally on this year's yields and production nationwide. This same 70-75% planting guideline is extended to all fry contract growers.

We recommend ALL growers carefully evaluate and conservatively determine the acres they will fertilize and fumigate this fall so as to NOT limit your ability to adjust your final plantings this spring to balance supplies with actual demand. For now, please use this guideline as you make plans for next year's plantings.