Future Michigan Potato Production
Mike Wenkel - Michigan Potato Industry Commission
Michigan Potato Industry

- Less than 80 potato operations
- 47,000 acres
- $170 Million farm gate value
- #6 based on value of potatoes
- #1 state in production of potatoes for potato chips
- Nearly all acres are irrigated
Michigan Production

- Grown in over 40 counties
- Seed in north and Upper Peninsula
- Chip stock in southern
- Fresh and process throughout state

www.mipotato.com
Processing in Michigan

- Better Made Snack Foods, Inc.
- Uncle Rays, LLC
- Great Lakes Potato Chip Company
- Downey’s Potato Chips
- Pellerito Foods, Inc.
- Burnette Foods
- Michigan Freeze Pack
- HoneeBear Canning Co.
Michigan Potato Utilization

- Potato Chips: 70%
- Fresh: 20%
- Seed: 5%
- Processing: 5%

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Where Do Michigan Potatoes Go?

- **70%** of all Michigan potatoes are utilized for potato chips
- **28%** of US chipping potatoes come from Michigan
Our Future

▶ Producers specializing in potato production
▶ Michigan’s geology - soils and water
▶ Proximity to US population & processing
  ▶ Transportation costs
  ▶ Reduced carbon footprint
  ▶ Freshness of product
▶ Ability to quickly respond to industry needs