

Potato harvest digging in for long haul

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

As the summer winds down, life gets much more hectic for those in the potato industry. With the early harvest under way at Western Potatoes Inc., workers are preparing for the influx of hours with the harvest lasting throughout September.

It has been an ideal summer in Holyoke for potato farmers. With more cooler days and moisture than in 2012 and no hail to speak of in the area, the harvest outlook is strong.

“This year’s harvest has been really good,” said Western Potatoes branch manager Steve Moore. “It has probably been one of the better crops I have seen, early crop-wise.”

The early harvest can be as short as two weeks and can last as long as a month for Western Potatoes. The duration of the early harvest is determined by the amount of orders they receive, specifically from Frito-Lay where the potatoes are made into potato chips.

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