



Grower Profile

Wallendal Supply

Interviewed: Andy Wallendal



Grower's Picture

Wallendal Supply is a family run farm, with Andy Wallendal, his brother John and brother in law Bob Stodola as fellow owners and managers. Andy and John's father started the farm in the late 1950's and they have been at their current location since 1967.

Stats

Size- 300 acres

Crops- Russet Norkota,
Russet Burbank

Even before joining the "Healthy Grown" program, the Wallendals were aware of, and used, Integrated Pest Management (IPM). When they decided to follow the "Healthy Grown" process, they "looked at growing and how the science based rankings of materials further enhanced our IPM program," and they had "confidence in relations within the collaboration between environmental organizations and scientists."

Location



When asked if he sees "Healthy Grown" as a realistic path for the future of farming, Andy answers with "Yes I do, I see the many facets to 'Healthy Grown;' the science based production standards are very strong and documented, and our land ethics tells us that this is a good way to produce."

He also proposes another question about "Healthy Grown" and if the economics are able to allow them the ability to maintain enhanced production and conservation methods. His feeling is that "if consumers get satisfaction from the products and the benefits are returned to the land from which it is produced, and then yes the economics will work."

One of the surprises that Andy has become aware of, is "the degree of disconnect of production to consumer; I don't know my average consumer like I know how the potatoes are packaged. I think that the method of production, our biggest selling point, is lost in the transition from production to brokers and from brokers to consumer."

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Despite these worries, Andy is still determined to continue with, and support, the "Healthy Grown" process and program.